

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Was Dag Hammarskjöld, Secretary of the United Nations, really a post-war hero? Paul Johnson argues in *Spectrum* that he was not, that he was wrong about Suez, wrong about the Soviet invasion of Hungary - "which he treated as a tiresome distraction" - and wrong about the Congo. Has Thatcherism been applied to law and order? Peter Evans looks at the main changes in British policing in recent years and the Conservative changes in the law relating to crime. Sazy Menkes looks at the growing fashion for middle-class mail order; and Roger Scruton reflects on a recent visit to New York.

Fire bomb attack on family

In a spate of sectarian attacks in Belfast a young couple and their daughter aged four were fire-bombed from their home and a public house was bombed. Mr Mervyn McEwan, a Protestant, was found beaten to death in playing fields. **Page 2**

Reagan fear of 'second Cuba'

In his personal address to Congress on Wednesday, President Reagan will say that support of the Administration's policy on Central America, the US's "front line" is a moral duty to avoid a "second Cuba". **Page 5**

Huckfield out

Mr Leslie Huckfield, the left-wing Labour MP, who decided two years ago not to seek re-election for his Nuneaton seat, was last night outvoted to remain as candidate for the safer re-drawn Wigan constituency, delegates choosing Mr Roger Stott, MP for neighbouring Westhoughton. **Page 5**

Bank withdrawals

Midland Bank has decided not to extend its branch network nationwide to cater separately for individual and corporate customers because of the high cost of implementing the strategy. **Page 15**

Turkey relents

Turkey's ruling military council has lifted the 1980 ban on political activities, paving the way for a general election promised for this autumn or early next year. **Page 5**

Shopping buy

Safeway, the American stores chain, is reported to be near to a £35m takeover of Key Markets, the supermarkets group. The deal would produce a combined group of 200 stores. **Page 15**

Firemen hesitate

The threat of a series of one-day firemen's strikes this week receded after it became apparent that enthusiasm for industrial action was waning. **Page 2**

Same chair

The accomplice of convicted killer John Evans is to go to the same electric chair in Alabama that took 10 minutes to execute Evans on Friday. **Page 6**

Pole caught

Jozef Piniar, a fugitive Solidarity leader, has been arrested. It is a big blow to the underground a week before the mass demonstrations planned for May Day. **Page 7**

Maxwell move

Robert Maxwell, the chairman of Oxford United Football Club, said he would call off his proposed merger with Reading if the club's future could be guaranteed for five years. **Page 17**

Computer Horizons tomorrow examines the impact of information technology on Westminster, takes a flying visit to the Hanover Fair, explains the wonders of image processing and takes a look at the old town hall and the new bring-and-buy.

Leader, page 11
Letters: On World Peace Council, from Mr Tony Smythe, and Mr Ray Whitely, MP; party manifestos, from Lord Alport. Leading articles: BL, Portuguese election; Russia and Afghanistan. Features, pages 8-10. Bernard Levin on Denis Healey's dilemma: *The Times* Profile of Iris Murdoch; *Spectrum* looks at tennis technique. Obituary, page 12. Earl Hines, Buster Crabbe.

Home News	2-4	From Books	24
Overseas	5-7	Religion	12
Arts	12	Self Rem	2
Arts	13	Science	2
Business	14-16	Sport	17-19
Court	12	TV & Radio	23
Crossword	12	Theatre, etc	23
Diary	10	Weather	12
Parliament	12	Wills	24

BL stewards may defy leaders over strike vote

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

A return to work by the 5,000 assembly workers at BL's Cowley plant could rest on whether shop stewards decide today to make any recommendation on the peace formula to be put to a mass meeting tomorrow.

BL officials were confident that the formula would be accepted but a stewards' recommendation to throw it out could influence the workers.

It is thought the stewards may try to make a recommendation, in apparent contravention of the agreement reached between national union officials and BL management on Saturday morning after three negotiating sessions spanning 39 hours. The formula was agreed only half an hour before BL's deadline for sending out dismissal letters to the strikers.

It was proposed that the formula would be put to the mass meeting factually and without recommendation, but Mr David Buckle, Oxford district secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said last night that he did not believe the stewards were barred from making a recommendation.

Under the terms of the understanding, Mr Buckle and the other full-time union officials would address the meetings today and tomorrow without indicating approval or rejection. If the mass meeting decides to end the four-week strike, the night shift is expected to return tomorrow with the plant becoming fully operational on Wednesday.

A national union official involved in the negotiations said union leaders would be extremely angry if the stewards made a recommendation. There was a specific point made during the negotiations that while there could be consultation with the stewards, it would be inappropriate for them to put any recommendation to the meeting.

Mr Buckle said: "The stewards will be asked at their meeting to go along with the formula, but if they want to pass a resolution one way or another, that is up to them. I do not think Leyland management would be too happy if the stewards backed the formula but failed to make a recommendation."

He predicted that the mass meeting would be "difficult, to put it mildly" and in the present "highly charged" atmosphere.

he could not predict which way the vote would go.

Under the terms of the formula, a four-week "cooling off" period will allow time for negotiation on the introduction of productivity measures and the ending of the six minutes a day "washing time" which has been at the centre of the dispute.

At the same time, a four-man committee will examine industrial relations at the Cowley assembly plant. That team will comprise two BL managers and two union officials, all from outside the Cowley area, and will consider "any specific complaint" either party may have about the other.

BL has agreed to give Cowley assembly audited plant status after agreement on productivity proposals and the ending of washing time, which would increase the weekly bonus ceiling from £18.75 to £20. Union officials believe they have secured two real gains from the management in a formula which, on the face of it, appears to be a victory for the management's determination to introduce "bell to bell" working at the plant.

The unions claim that the old style of management by imposition will be replaced by a regime which seeks to introduce changes by agreement.

The company believes it has come out of the dispute with its position very little changed and the prospect of an early end to the washing time practice.

Some of the strikers are expected to try to return to work this morning but although BL has said that the gates at Cowley will be open, the unions are planning to mount a picket to prevent production resuming. The strike has led to the loss of about 17,000 cars with a showroom value of £90m.

Leading article, page 11

Two aims of Shultz Middle East tour

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

As the United States received back the bodies of those who died in last week's Beirut Embassy bomb blast, Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, left for the Middle East in a renewed US effort to bring peace and stability to that troubled region.

The main purpose of his journey is to press for a speedy withdrawal of Israeli, Syrian, and Palestinian Liberation Organisation forces from Lebanon. But it is also designed to reinforce American determination to press ahead with President Reagan's peace initiative despite the body blow it received earlier this month by the refusal of King Hussein of Jordan to participate in the talks on Palestinian autonomy.

Mr Shultz sounded a deliberately upbeat note on the eve of his departure. In an interview with the *Washington Post* he said there were signs that Arab leaders may be taking a second look at the Reagan peace plan.

"It does seem to me," he told the newspaper, "that there is a certain shock that has taken hold, as I read the cable from various Arab capitals, in which people are saying to themselves: we really are going to pass this up." Maybe we can't afford to do that.

He insisted that the President's plan was not dead despite King Hussein's refusal to join the talks with the US, Israel, and Egypt. "I think it is as well for them (the Arabs) to talk among themselves and see if they are not missing the boat."

Mr Shultz noted that US attempts to bring the Jordanian monarch into the peace process had almost succeeded but had been undercut by radical elements in the PLO.

He made it clear that he regarded a withdrawal of the forces from the Lebanon as a first step towards a wider peace agreement in the Middle East, and he seemed reasonably confident that such an agreement was near at hand.

Mr Shultz and President Reagan were present at a moving and sombre ceremony at an Air Force base outside Washington to mark the return of the bodies of 16 of the 17 Americans killed in the Embassy blast. A military guard of honour stood at attention in front of the flag-draped coffins and a band played "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" as the President walked past.

Maharak challenge, page 6

Desert troops forbidden to wear medal

From Christopher Walker, El Gurah, Sinai

Angry protests have been lodged with the Ministry of Defence in London over the Government's refusal to permit British soldiers serving with the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) in the Sinai from wearing the elegant campaign medal awarded to all those with over 90 days' service monitoring the peace between Israel and Egypt.

Resentment over the ban has come to a head because of today's full-dress parade here to celebrate the controversial force's first anniversary. The British, along with the Australians, New Zealanders and French, will be the only troops among the 11 nationalities in the MFO unable to wear bronze replicas of Picasso's dove of peace.

"The frustrating part is having to watch men from places like Colombia and Italy standing with these pinnas on their chests, while we have to keep ours locked away," an English lieutenant explained. "It seems the only place we are allowed to wear it is in bed."

The British are barred from wearing the medal because the MFO, unlike the United Nations, is not recognized as a sovereign state. Of the three other Commonwealth countries in the force, Australia and New Zealand are seeking permission to waive the rule, while the

Fijian battalion have decided to ignore it.

Officers with the 38-strong British contingent are openly critical over the Government's decision, which they say they have been ordered not to discuss with the press.

Speaking at the airbase which once saw the launch of the Entebbe raid, and is now the MFO headquarters, garrison Sergeant Major Philip Ward told *The Times*: "The men are very upset about this decision. Things are made worse because the British Army only produces a very limited number of medals in the first place." One officer refused to be identified referred to the years of indecision about whether to grant a medal to mark service in Northern Ireland.

The Sinai ban is blamed by the British contingent on bureaucratic bungling in London. One major told me: "When you feel that you are out here doing something for peace, it is ridiculous that you are not allowed to show off your pride by wearing the very medal you have been given for your service."

Hitler's secret diaries

Germans greet find with great scepticism

From Michael Binyon
Bonn

German historians and newspapers have greeted with considerable scepticism the announcement that Hitler's diaries have been discovered, echoing the view in Britain that this is either the forgery of the century or necessitates the rewriting of the history of the Nazi period.

Professor Karl-Dieter Bracher of Bonn University, one of the most respected historians of the period, expressed "great scepticism" and said a proper evaluation of the find and its contents was only possible after a careful scientific examination.

Professor Martin Broszat, director of the Munich Institute for Contemporary History, also cast doubt on the documents' authenticity, declaring, however, that Lord Dacre, who expressed conviction in *The Times* on Saturday that the diaries were genuine, was a "very careful man who took great care with his sources".

Lord Dacre is giving a press conference in Hamburg today which will attract worldwide attention.

Stern's announcement on Friday has provoked astonishment and enormous interest here. The magazine has brought forward the publication of the issue revealing the diaries, and printed a record edition over the weekend of more than two million copies.

German papers and reports have had to rely so far for details on the extracts already published in *The Sunday Times*, retranslating quotations from the diaries back into German. Newspapers publishing pictures of the Nazi leaders mentioned in *The Sunday Times* extracts, have also gone into detail about the way the documents were discovered and acquired by Stern.

Herr Nicolaus von Below, Hitler's former air force adjutant, told the mass circulation *Bild am Sonntag* that the



Lord Dacre off to Hamburg from Heathrow yesterday. "I do believe... the diaries are genuine," page 2

diaries were just another of the many untrue "fairytale stories" circulating since the end of the war.

"We often used to eat at about three or four o'clock in the night, and only after that did Hitler go to bed," Herr von Below who was constantly in

Hitler's entourage from 1937 until the end of the war told the paper. "So he had no time to write anything. It's all a complete lie."

The paper also quoted Professor Werner Maser, who has written books on Hitler, saying that a forgery factory existed in



The Hitler signature on the diaries

Potsdam, East Germany, to turn out Hitler documents, letters and pictures which were then sold to the West for valuable Western currency. Professor Maser took part in one of the television debates on the diaries at the weekend.

Stern has rejected his statements, saying he had disavowed himself as a scientific historian. He had already offered his story of the East German forgery factory to the magazine, but had been unable to back up his claims with any proof or real indication of its existence.

Former General Hans Baur, now aged 86, who was Hitler's chief pilot and recalled Hitler's distress at hearing of the loss of his diaries, stood by his conviction that they are genuine.

He told *Bild am Sonntag*: "When I told Hitler of the crash of the aircraft which should have taken the documents to Salzburg, he reacted very strongly. He said: 'It would have to happen to that aircraft in which I placed the records of all my actions'."

Stern is to publish the diaries in three batches over the next 18 months. The extracts in *The Sunday Times* yesterday showed that the 60 handwritten volumes cover Hitler's private life, especially his relations with Eva Braun, his mistress.

He was bitterly contemptuous of some of his most powerful colleagues. Of Himmler, head of the SS, he said in April, 1935: "I don't need any kind of investigations by Himmler. He is also snooping on E (Eva)." In an entry four years later he said: "I have threatened to send him before a party court. I shall show this deceitful little animal breeder, this unfathomable little penny-pincher with his lust for power, what I am really like."

In 1943 Hitler is complaining about the level of guerrilla activity in occupied territory, which he says was Himmler's job to stamp out. "But he lives in another world, and it seems to me that he exists in an ancient Germanic world in the heavens."

Hitler complains also of Goebbels's notorious affair with the Czech actress Lida Barrova: "The little Dr Goebbels is up to his old tricks again with women." He asks at one point: "Where are Goebbels's miraculous aircraft?" And in 1934, at the time of the purge of the brownshirts, he accused Ernst Roehm, the brownshirt leader, of lying to him. "I gave him the opportunity to take the noble way out but he was too cowardly to do even that." He was shot on Hitler's orders.

The last entry is undated and was written only a fortnight before his suicide. As the Russians closed in on Berlin, Hitler said: "The long-awaited offensive has begun. May the Lord God stand by us."

He denied that he had been a party to any "shoddy deals".

Confirming that there had already been vague hints from the Labour and Conservative parties about a separate collaboration agreement with the Liberals in the event of a "hung" Parliament, Mr Steel made clear that the Alliance would not be split: "There is no agreement possible with the Liberal party on its own, or the SDP on its own."

Letters, page 11

Steel says he would bow to Jenkins

By George Clark

Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberals, confirmed yesterday that, in private talks with Mr Roy Jenkins, leader of the Social Democratic Party, it has been agreed that the Liberal-SDP Alliance will go into the election with Mr Steel as leader of the joint campaign. Mr Jenkins as the prime minister designate should the Alliance be called on to form a government.

On the basis of the present opinion polls, this would seem an unlikely prospect and it means that Mr Steel will emerge as the most dominant figure in the election, to the satisfaction of many Liberals who have been disappointed with Mr Jenkins' lacklustre performance at public meetings in recent months.

Mr Steel is seen as a much more aggressive politician, with an appeal to younger voters which Mr Jenkins cannot rival. But the "arrangement" mutu-

ally agreed by the two leaders in private still has to come up for endorsement by a joint meeting of Liberal and SDP members of Parliament on Wednesday. Yesterday, when interviewed by Mr Brian Walden the Independent Television programme, *Weekend World*, Mr Steel was confident that the MPs will agree.

But it may not rest entirely with them. Both parties pride themselves on their democratic nature and there could be demands from the membership for a say in the matter. For instance, many Liberals think the Alliance should go into the election with Mr Steel as prime minister designate.

Mr Steel is regarded by them as the more dynamic leader, and public opinion polls have indicated that he is a popular leader. He will be chairman of the joint campaign committee, and he emphasized yesterday



The leaders: Mutually agreed arrangement

that no firm declaration about a prime minister designate would be made until the election period begins.

In running the campaign someone had to take the final decisions, and that someone would be him (Mr Steel). "Obviously, if we were successful in forming a government, one person ought to be prime minister and I have never made any secret of my view that it should be Roy Jenkins."

Kreisky's majority in danger

Vienna (Reuters) - Chancellor Bruno Kreisky's Socialist Party appeared in yesterday's general election, to be in serious danger of losing its absolute majority in Parliament, although retaining the strongest party, according to computer forecasts.

The election statistician, Professor Gerhart Bruckmann, predicted the Socialists would win between 90 and 92 seats in the 183-member National Council. The conservative People's Party would win 81 or 82 and the rightist-liberal Freedom Party 10 or 11.

If the Socialists retain their absolute majority, it will enable Dr Kreisky to head a Socialist government for a record fifth successive term.

Failure will open the possibility of a minority administration. Dr Kreisky, aged 72, has said he will step down if his party fails to gain an absolute majority.

Photograph, page 6

Explosion sends fumes over city

Four people were taken to hospital after a huge explosion sent a mushroom cloud of chemical fumes into the air over the city of Nottingham yesterday. The blast ripped off a large part of the roof at the Boots chemical factory in Sneinton, near the city centre.

A man inside the factory, two outside contractors and a passing motorist were taken to hospital, where they were detained for observation. None of the four was seriously hurt. They were admitted as a safety precaution after coming into contact with chemical fumes which temporarily caused a tingling sensation of the skin.

Firemen and officials from the Severn Trent Water Authority were yesterday working to prevent the chemical Bromopol, from seeping into the River Trent.

Mr Terry Steele, a director of Boots, said that the cause of the explosion was not yet known but was being investigated. The blast took place in a reaction vessel which was producing the chemical which is used to kill bacteria and mould in pharmaceutical products.

"When the vessel exploded some acid fumes went into the air but were quickly dispersed. There is no danger to people in the area," he said. Other parts of the factory would be back to production today.

The explosion damaged a local public house and debris from the roof narrowly missed a pedestrian. The motorist was driving past when a cloud of chemical dust descended on his car.

One eye witness said: "The blast shook the entire factory. There was a huge cloud of white dust which mushroomed up into the air and drifted towards the city centre. It left an acrid taste in the mouth."

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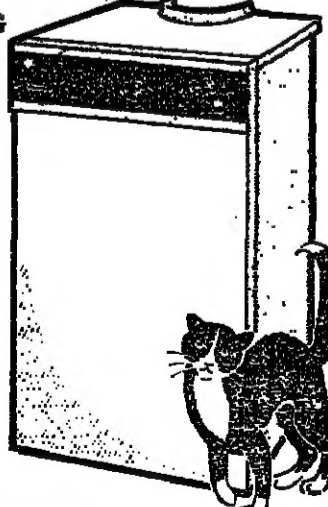
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Train hit by dislodged kerbstone

Mr Richard Briggs, the driver of an Inter-City train, was in hospital with a fractured skull yesterday after being knocked unconscious in his cab by a 2.5-ton stone slab. The emergency braking system stopped the train, carrying about fifty passengers, after a few hundred yards.

The accident, on line from King's Cross to Harrogate, North Yorkshire, happened after a van crashed into Nab Bridge, at Rigg, near Harrogate, dislodging a 4ft by 1ft kerbstone, which crashed through the driver's cab as the train went under the bridge at about 60 mph.

Mr Ian Firth, the van driver, of Sycamore Avenue, Bradford, was unhurt and none of the passengers were injured.

Actor faces two charges

Peter Adamson, the actor who plays Len Fairclough in the television serial *Coronation Street*, is to appear before magistrates in Rossendale, Lancashire, on May 9 to face two charges of sexual assault. Mr Adamson, aged 43, married with two sons, was arrested on Saturday and held overnight at Haslingden police station in Lancashire. He was granted bail yesterday and returned home to Bury, Greater Manchester.

Dispute causes petrol shortage

Fifteen garages in central Scotland have had to close because of petrol shortages caused by a dispute involving 110 BP tanker drivers. The dispute is over the company's occasional use of independent delivery firms.

MP's son accused

Randolph Leonard Spencer Churchill, aged 18, the son of Mr Winston Churchill, MP, is to appear at Croydon Magistrates' Court on July 27 to face a summons, taken out by British Transport Police, alleging that he avoided his train fare on a journey between Haywards Heath, Sussex, and London.

Video death hunt

Detectives investigating the killing of Gillian Adams, aged 14, at Deeping, St. James, Lincolnshire, on April 15, are showing villagers a video film to try to gain information. The film, featuring a stand-in, shows her last known movements.

Radio closedown

Global Radio, an international radio service which has been providing programmes for the blind for the past 23 years, has been forced to close after thieves stole equipment worth thousands of pounds from its studio at Folkestone, Kent.

Yachtsmen safe

Mr George Shearman, of Chudleigh, Hampshire, and Mr Kyle Astbury, of Eastleigh, Hampshire, waded to the shore yesterday after their 25ft yacht was beaten on to rocks and sank in the Solent.

Memorial to 'H'

A memorial to Lieutenant-Colonel H. Jones, VC, was unveiled in the cloisters of Eton College, his former school, by Mrs Sara Jones, his widow, on Saturday. He died leading an attack to recapture the Falklands.

Two die in fire

Two women were found dead yesterday after fire swept their home in Charles Street, Blackpool. They were Mrs Elizabeth Wilkinson, aged 89, and her daughter, Mrs Janet Coupe, aged 63.

Violent end

Robert Manson, aged 37, of Castlemilk, Glasgow, who was jailed for 12 years in 1968 for attempted murder, was found battered to death in a gutter in the city on Saturday.

Stricter legislation against under-age drinking demanded by JPs' clerks

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Stricter licensing laws to curb the growth in drink-related crimes, particularly among the young, are called for by the Justices' Clerks' Society today. Under-age drinking is now "so grave that draconian measures are needed to cope with it", the society of 350 chief legal advisers to magistrates in England and Wales says in a paper.

Publicans widely flout the law against selling intoxicating liquor to people aged under 18 or by allowing them to consume it, and yet there are few prosecutions, the society adds.

The link between sales to the young and their subsequent involvement in crime was "too strong to ignore and is an area of grave concern not only to the courts but to the public in general and to parents in particular".

The evidence pointed to alcohol consumption and abuse having risen to such levels that it was having a severely adverse effect on the incidence of crime: there was a demonstrated link day by day between under-age drinking and crime.

Courts daily saw the effect of excessive alcohol consumption in offences of drunkenness, disorder, assault, criminal damage, dishonesty, burglary and theft.

Many of the crimes were committed by young people after they left licensed premises, with the public house and licensed discotheque having taken the place for thousands of teenagers of the coffee bar and the youth club.

The society calls for a strengthening of the Licensing Act, 1964, to impose strict liability for the offence of selling alcohol to a person aged under 18 or allowing him to consume it.

The present defence that the licensee holder reasonably believes the person to be over 18 should be abolished, it says, because the law is an insufficient deterrent to licensee holders and makes prosecution difficult.

Because of the implications of the measure, however, a system of formal cautions should be introduced, with three cautions giving ground for the cancellation of a licence.

A breach of the law would lead first to a formal written caution from the police. If the caution was rejected by the licensee holder the police could prosecute. If accepted, the caution would be recorded by the clerk to the licensing justices and it would be used in evidence if the holder's licence was contested.

Other proposals are for stricter criteria governing the granting of a licence, requiring the applicant to prove the need in his area for another outlet. The trend in some areas has been to grant licences almost on demand, the society says.

Licensing hours should remain the same, but there must be tighter control of late-night drinking clubs, with the sale of drink allowed only as an ancillary to the consumption of a proper meal.

The present law, that there must be substantial refreshment available, was uncertain, with many late-night establishments operating as public houses with music and dancing and staying open until 3am with no intention of serving meals.

Licensing justices should have the power to allow children with parents into specified rooms in approved public houses up to 8pm on particular evenings. That could make a major contribution to the education of the young in the context of alcohol consumption.

Licensing justices should also have control over the running of clubs and the sale of alcohol there. Clubs would have to apply to the justices for a licence.

Licensing Law in the Eighties (Justices' Clerks' Society, Magistrates' Court, PO Box 107, Nelson Street, Bristol, BS99 7BU).

Sales lift Thames's Channel 4 burden

Sales of programmes abroad accounted for about 60 per cent of Thames Television's profits last year and helped to offset the almost "intolerable" burden of Channel Four, it was stated yesterday. In the present year, all the company's profits will come from overseas sales, Mr Hugh Dundas, chairman of Thames, said. The company revealed gross profits from overseas sales of £2.5m for the year ended March 31.

The sales will be crucial in sustaining the company's overall profit at a time when its subscription to Channel Four has gone above £20m and increased rental fees for the Independent Broadcasting Authority are wiping out profits.

Mr Dundas said the company willingly undertook the obligation to carry its major share of the cost of establishing Channel Four, but he added: "The burden is greater than had been anticipated."

Thames's pre-tax profit, subject to audit and year-end adjustments, was estimated to be about £3.3m.

The company's union, Equity, was not prepared to become a sacrificial pawn in the dispute over payment for actors in advertisements on Channel Four, Mr Peter Plourieux, its general secretary, said yesterday.

He told the union's annual meeting that the union was

Childbirth by proxy condemned

By Michael Horsnell

Medical opposition to "womb leasing" by which women are contracted to bear children for childless couples, is expected to grow this week with the publication of a report by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists' ethics committee.

The report, on *in vitro* fertilization and embryo replacement or transfer, is expected to condemn surrogate motherhood, after reports that an American business woman is looking for a London base to establish a scheme to supply babies to infertile couples for £16,000 each.

Mrs Harriet Blankfield, founder of Miracle Program Inc, pays volunteers £6,500 of the fee to carry to term another woman's fertilized ovum.

Further condemnation of the practice, which is not illegal, is expected next year from the Government's formal inquiry into test-tube babies and artificial insemination.

The 16-strong committee of inquiry, chaired by Mrs Mary Warnock, senior research fellow at St Hugh's College, Oxford, will consider womb leasing this summer during its deliberations on *in vitro* fertilization.

Mrs Warnock said yesterday: "I would hope to see a law against womb leasing."

Probation strike attacked

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

Lord Harris of Greenwich, president of the breakaway National Association of Senior Probation Officers, has criticized "extremists" who he said were leading Wednesday's planned probation service strike.

But Mr Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the rival National Association of Probation Officers (Napo), which has called the strike, immediately countered, saying: "I wish I knew who these extremists are. I have seen no signs of any extremism. On the contrary, the association is led by people who are of the centre or centre left."

He expected between 50 per cent and 60 per cent of officers to strike. About 1,200 would take part in the London demonstrations and about 3,000 to 3,500 in protests nationally against cuts in trainees' pay.

Lord Harris, who was speaking at the annual conference of senior probation officers in Portsmouth, accused Napo of "other examples of similar reckless conduct."

There was, he said, the episode of the Napo banner on



Lord Harris of Greenwich: Strike "led by extremists".

the Greenwich picket line. There was the refusal to supervise so-called political offenders. There was the root and branch opposition to many sensible proposals to divert people away from custody to non-custodial alternatives to imprisonment.

"And now there has been the truly extraordinary call by Napo members to refuse to implement the provision in the Criminal Justice Act 1982 which introduces the night curfew for younger offenders."

Lord Harris said that Napo leaders must be told that it was for Parliament to make the

laws, not a group of trade union officers.

By their conduct next week, they would be undermining confidence in the service at a time when it should be regarded as sensible and responsible and able to take on the supervision of offenders as an alternative to custody. Of prisons, he said: "The breakdown of the system, constantly prophesied, is now a real threat."

During next week's strike, offenders at risk of committing another serious offence might try to contact their probation officers. "What does Napo suggest should be done to help a client who is on parole or life sentence licence or on probation? I do not think it right for a service responsible for dealing with these offenders to withdraw their labour in these circumstances."

Speaking of supervising politically motivated offenders, Mr Fletcher said there had been a small number on the mainland, mainly involved in trade union disputes, who fell into the category Lord Harris mentioned. Mr Fletcher said: "I fail to see how a probation officer can after the sincerely held political views of any individual."

Voluntary advice system 'in chaos'

By a Staff Reporter

The advice and voluntary information bureau system is in a chaotic state, according to the National Consumers Council. In a report published today the council says that finance for the system comes from a bewildering variety of sources.

In some areas, no public money is available for advice centres, such as the Citizens Advice Bureaux, while in others central and local government set up competing services.

The report is published at a time when advice centres are suffering cash cutbacks in some areas, resulting in closures and reduced opening hours. The study shows that some local authorities prefer to reduce aid to voluntary organizations rather than reduce the number of their own staff.

The report says that despite the cutbacks, high unemployment and rising costs of living

have led to increased demands on advice centres. There had been huge increases in the number of people seeking advice on social security problems, and during 1981-82 inquiries dealt with by citizens advice bureaux rose by a tenth to nearly five million.

Money was at the heart of most problems handled by the various advice centres, the report, which was prepared at the request of Dr Gerard Vaughan, Minister for Consumer Affairs, adds, with many people finding difficulty in paying gas and electricity bills.

In England, Wales, and Northern Ireland, advice bureaux saw inquiries related to unemployment rise by more than half during 1981-82; in Scotland the increase was 44 per cent.

"Central government departments still have no common

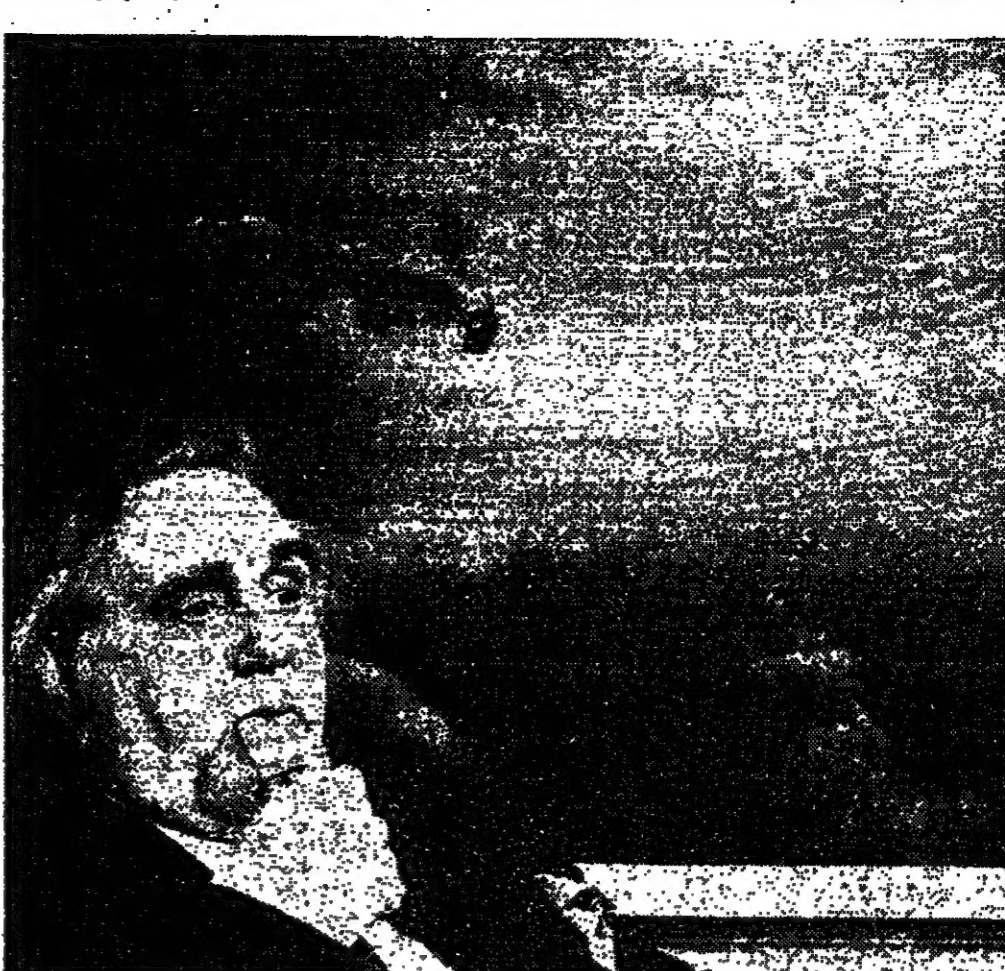
policy towards information and advice services. It is still extremely rare to find any coherent strategy at local government level," the report says.

Many of the different types of advice organizations were cooperating with each other instead of competing for the same grants and funds.

The report highlights the increasing difficulties of country areas where cuts in grants threaten an already poor service.

Some rural advice services, the report says, are reluctant to publicize their services for fear of being inundated with inquiries that they will be unable to handle.

Information and Advice Services in the United Kingdom National Consumers Council, 18 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AA, £2.



Kenneth Hancock with his painting of the Excalibur.

Tribute to hero of the skies

From Arthur Osman, Birmingham

Special tribute will be paid to a wartime hero this week with the unveiling of a painting of the aircraft in which the Halifax bomber's only Victoria Cross was won.

Mr Kenneth Hancock's picture of the Excalibur was commissioned by former members of 578 Squadron Bomber Command in memory of all aircrew and, in particular, of Pilot Officer Cyril Barton, the captain who died winning the Victoria Cross.

The painting will be unveiled at a preview in Birmingham on Wednesday, to which the Marshal of the Air Force Sir Arthur Harris, the former head of Bomber Command, has been invited.

The picture will be reproduced in unlimited edition for

the new Bomber Command Museum, Hendon, and the RAF Benevolent Fund.

More than 200 Halifax crews, including three who baled out of the Excalibur and became prisoners of war, will attend the preview.

The Excalibur flew from Burn, Yorkshire, on the ill-fated Nuremberg raid on March 30, 1944. Bomber Command suffered its worst disaster on that Thursday, night with 96 out of the 795 aircraft failing to return.

The Excalibur was attacked by fighters near the target and severely damaged. Pilot Officer Barton's subsequent Victoria Cross citation said: "At the height of the battle a signal

was misinterpreted and the navigator, air bomber and wireless operator left the aircraft by parachute."

Pilot Officer Barton pressed on and, released the bombs himself but turning for home, the Excalibur lost a propeller and fuel. He flew for nearly five hours without navigational aids against strong head winds, but avoided heavy defences. He crossed the English coast 90 miles from his base at Ryhope, near Sunderland.

With only one engine working and almost out of fuel, he attempted to land and avoided houses over which he was flying. He died in the crash, but the three crew members still with him survived.

Dispute threatens gypsy site

By David Nicholson-Lord

Two hundred gypsies may face eviction from one of their few sites near central London because of a long-running dispute involving a Conservative-controlled London borough and the Labour-controlled Greater London Council.

The GLC owns the Westway site in north Kensington and is refusing to renew the lease when it runs out in June. Hammer-smith and Fulham council, which rents and runs the site, says it has surveyed more than a hundred other sites but can find no suitable alternative.

The site lies under a motorway, next to a railway line, and suffers from very high levels of lead pollution. Earlier this year the borough council was ordered by magistrates under the Public Health Act to monitor lead levels every three months.

Three quarters of the travellers are children.

But the tussle over the site forms part of a wider conflict between the GLC and several London boroughs, many Conservative-controlled, over the provision of legal pitches for gypsies. The GLC has mounted a campaign to provide more space because of the number of travellers being drawn to central London as a consequence of the recession.

A report to be submitted to the GLC's ethnic minorities committee this week estimates that there are at least 500 gypsy families camping on unauthorized sites in London and therefore liable to be moved on. There are, by contrast, only 383 official pitches.

tion from the Department of the Environment under the Caravan Sites Act, 1968.

The GLC has offered land to boroughs for the travellers, but says the offer has been rejected. It says it has also been told by Mr Neil Macfarlane, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment with responsibility for gypsies, that it cannot spend its own money on providing sites.

Westway residents have fought a three-year campaign over the site's health hazards, including accumulations of rubbish, bad drainage, fire risk and vandalized lavatory blocks.

This culminated in February in a series of public health orders against Hammer-smith council. But the council says the gypsies themselves cause many of the problems.

Volunteers to police illegal rare bird trade

By Hugh Clayton
Environment Correspondent

Almost 200 voluntary inspectors have been chosen to reinforce the one full-time official appointed by ministers to police the registration of rare captive birds. The new system is aimed at ending the illegal trade in wild birds of prey, for which the breeding season is just starting.

Britain is thought to have fewer than 800 pairs of wild peregrine falcons and fewer than 500 pairs of the smaller merlin.

The golden eagle, one of the largest and most handsome of British birds, is down to about 300 pairs, of which all but a handful are in Scotland. One of the very few English eyries is under permanent guard by naturalists.

Wild peregrine falcons can be worth hundreds of pounds each. Breeders have sometimes taken eggs from nests of wild birds, claiming later that the newly born young were bred in captivity.

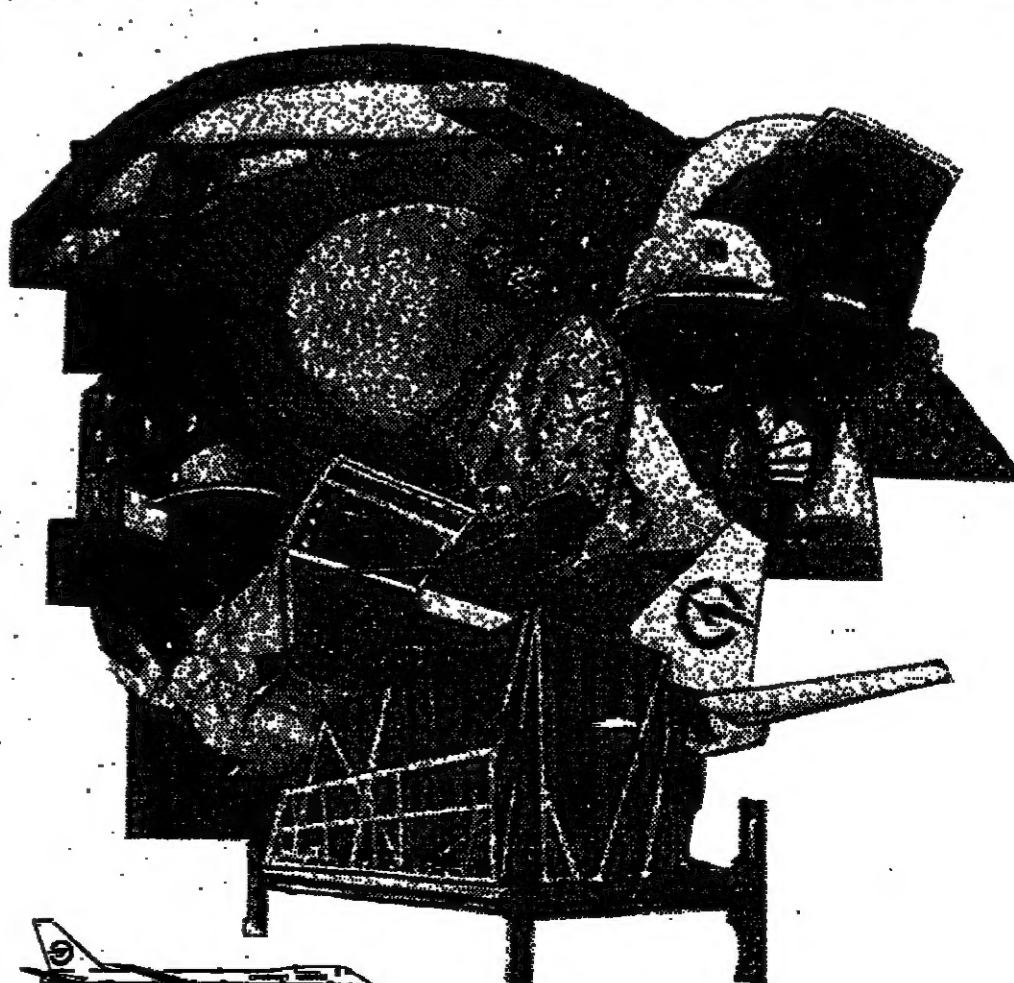
The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is involved in about twenty-five prosecutions a year concerning illegal possession of birds of prey, which have the highest degree of protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act.

So far this year four clutches of wild goshawk eggs have been stolen from British nests. The bird, which is more common in Central Europe, is down to between 50 and 100 wild pairs in Britain.

All captive birds of prey must now be registered with the Government, numbered and fitted with an official leg ring which carries the number.

The inspectors, who will be paid £3 an hour and expenses, are expected to witness the ringing of birds. Some are amateur naturalists.

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Hearing begins today on risks and benefits of injectable contraceptive

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

The public "trial" of the controversial injectable contraceptive, Depo-Provera, begins in London today. It will be the first public hearing on the risks and benefits of a drug to be held under section 21 of the Medicines Act, 1968.

The hearing has been demanded by Upjohn, the American manufacturer, to appeal against the Government's decision to refuse a product licence for the drug's long-term use as a contraceptive. That decision was taken by Mr Kenneth Clarke as one of his first acts on becoming Minister of Health, against the advice of the Committee on Safety of Medicines.

A panel of legal and medical experts will take evidence for a week before deciding whether the risks of using the drug outweigh the benefits of a contraceptive widely acknowledged to be effective.

If the panel accepts the arguments of the 15 experts Upjohn is intending to call to give medical and scientific evidence its use will be recommended as a long-term contraceptive.

But if it accepts the written arguments produced by the main opponents, the Coordinating Group on Depo-Provera, it will remain licensed for short-term use only, for example to prevent pregnancy after vaccination against German measles.

Under the rules governing the hearing the opponents have been allowed to provide written evidence but cannot appear as independent witnesses. That has angered the coordinating group, which brings together a wide range of women's health groups. The health groups argue that evidence from women using the drug is crucial because many tragedies have occurred through inadequate drugs research.

Upjohn appears to be equally angry that the group has been allowed to give evidence at all. Last week the company published a response to the group's written evidence, dismissing it as "anecdotal case reporting which should not be accorded weight with scientific evidence. Nevertheless, Upjohn also includes anecdotal case histories from satisfied women users of Depo-Provera.

The company acknowledges some of the side-effects of using the drug, but argues that they are acceptable compared with the risks of becoming pregnant.

Evidence collected from 88 women by the group suggests that in addition to disruption of the menstrual cycle and disturbance of the metabolism, using Depo-Provera also carries a risk of cancer. The group is also concerned that Depo-Provera has been prescribed to women who have not been fully informed of the associated risks.

The Committee on Safety of Medicines concluded that Depo-Provera should be approved for women for whom other methods of contraception were inappropriate, but Mr Clarke said that the possible risks outweighed the benefits.

He said the drug might be given to mentally handicapped women who could not give informed consent, and it could be used for women having many abortions.

The medical establishment is in favour of Depo-Provera; both the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the Family Planning Association want it to be added to the list of available contraceptives.

Its use has been banned, however, in the United States since 1978, but that decision is being reviewed.

The following are members of the panel for the public hearing:

Professor Rosalinde Hurley, chairman of the Medicines Commission at the Department of Health and Social Security; Professor A. Ascher, also a member of the commission; Mr Ian Kennedy, director of the Centre of Law, Medicine and Ethics at King's College London and last year's Reith lecturer; Professor H. Jacobs, consultant gynaecologist; and Professor F. A. Langley, Emeritus Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecological Pathology, Manchester University.

Officers' wider powers are at centre of concern

The controversial Police and Criminal Evidence Bill, which gives new, widening powers to the police, will shortly emerge on the floor of the Commons for its final stages before entering the House of Lords. In this three-part series Frances Gibb looks at the Bill in detail and the changes made to it after widespread criticism.

The Police and Criminal Evidence Bill, the main plank of the Government's law and order policy, will bring in wide range of new police powers to stop, search and arrest; new procedures for holding and questioning suspects and a new police complaints procedure with provision for police community consultations.

Much criticized in the Commons for not providing safeguards for suspects' rights to balance the new police powers, it could also receive a bumpy ride in the Lords.

The Bill has come under fire first for what it omits. Based in part on the report of the Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure, it omits two of that body's main proposals: an independent prosecution system, separate from the police interrogations. Both are now under review by the Home Office.

The Bill's central concept, and trigger for many of the powers, is the "serious arrestable offence". That is an offence that police, or a magistrate, deem sufficiently serious to justify use of certain powers. After much criticism, the Bill's approach to this has been tightened: there must be



Young men being searched in central London

"reasonable" belief in the seriousness of the offence, backed by guiding factors such as the nature and scale of the offence.

The Bill's first part, subject of most attention, provides powers of stop, search and arrest. Existing police powers, which vary throughout the country, are rationalized and new ones created.

There is a new national power to stop and search for stolen goods or articles adapted for stealing or fraud and for offensive weapons or items adapted for that use. Police -

who must identify themselves, give reasons for the search and provide a copy of the search record on request - can search someone reasonably suspected of carrying any of these items.

There is still concern that articles not offensive in themselves, such as a comb, are subject to the powers with potential for friction on the streets.

Powers to set up road blocks, now vague, are defined. A police superintendent (critics want an assistant chief constable) can authorize a road check for up to a week on

reasonable suspicion that someone in the area may commit a serious arrestable offence.

The Bill also extends powers of arrest. Police can at present arrest without warrant only on reasonable suspicion of an offence punishable by five years' imprisonment or for specific lesser offences where statute provides, such as refusal to be breath-tested.

Under the Bill, arrest without warrant is extended to reasonable suspicion of any offence at all where a person refuses to give name and address or the constable doubts those details

and where a summons, which must be the usual procedure, is impracticable. Most statutory powers of arrest without warrant are, in turn, repealed.

But most controversy has centred on powers to search for evidence, particularly that held in confidence. The Bill enables a magistrate to authorize police to search, on reasonable suspicion of a serious arrestable offence, for evidence believed to be on the premises which might be produced at the trial.

Where the evidence is held in confidence, police must apply to a circuit judge and the evidence must be of "substantial value" to the investigation.

But after sustained and widespread protests, the Government has substantially limited the scope of these powers. Medical and other confidential records held by "caring professions", and by journalists, are now exempt. Legal records not protected by "privilege" and non-confidential journalistic material will have the extra safeguards of confidential evidence.

In addition, judges can order a search only where there is a real risk that the material will be destroyed and no longer where the holder refuses to reveal it. Such a refusal would be open to contempt of court proceedings. Judges must also balance the "public interest" in disclosure against the police need for the material.

Tomorrow: detention and questioning in police custody.

Joke complaint by John Cleese upheld

A complaint by John Cleese, the comedian, that he did not make a joke attributed to him by *The Sun* is upheld by the Press Council today.

The newspaper reported that work on a Monty Python film was held up when 120 coloured students refused to stage the Battle of Rorke's Drift in Zulu costume. The paper said: "After the black warriors, dressed in Zulu costume, opened and long-legged Cleese leaped about among the extras demanding: 'Which of you bastards did a rain dance?'"

Mr Cleese told Mr Kelvin MacKenzie, the editor, that he did not leap about and the joke was an invention. It could be regarded as racist. But Mr Kenneth Donlan, managing editor, said the report was accurate and the remark was made in frustration, not in a racist way. Mr Cleese referred the matter to his solicitors, who asked *The Sun* for an apology. None was given and they complained to the Press Council.

Mr George Forbes, the reporter, said there were no other journalists with him when the downpour came.

The Press Council's adjudication was: "The Press Council is satisfied that Mr Cleese did not use the words or perform the actions attributed to him in the report. It does not agree that the description of those words and actions gave the story a racist slant, or that the story had such a slant. The editor should have published a retraction of the inaccuracies. The complaint against *THE SUN* is upheld. A complaint that *The*

Sunday Times refused to retract a story that De Beers, the diamond merchants, were buying Russian synthetic gem diamonds is rejected by the Press Council today. It said that the paper was entitled to stand by its story and had given De Beers a right of reply.

The article, by Edward Jay Epstein, said there was evidence that Russian diamonds supplied under a clandestine deal to De Beers were not mined in Siberia but mass-produced at factories in Moscow and the Ukraine.

Mr A. B. Monnickendam, managing director of A. Monnickendam Ltd, and chairman of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry's diamonds and precious stones trade section, told the editor the inference that gem quality diamonds were being mass-produced in Russia was pure fabrication. A fortnight later, the paper published a further story, saying that the allegations had been described as "ludicrous, fatuous and insidious". Mr Michael Grantham, of De Beers, was quoted as denying that the company bought any synthetic gem quality diamonds from any source.

Mr Monnickendam told the Press Council the news item gave the false impression that, since gem diamonds could now be mass-produced, they were almost worthless. He asked for a further retraction or clarification which was refused. Mr Stephen Boyd, chief assistant to the editor, said the paper stood by its story. De Beers had issued only a limited denial.

Borough poised to fight urban motorway plan

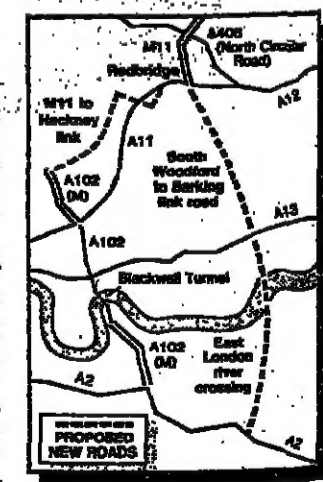
By Michael Bailey
Transport Editor

A plan for a new motorway link between Hackney, east London, and the M11 is to be fought by Hackney Council, which fears it will encourage unwanted through traffic and commuter cars into north-east London.

The four-mile motorway, due to be built by 1989 at a cost of about £100m, is seen by the Department of Transport as a boon which will bring vital new life to the declining local economy.

The road is also intended to carry traffic to and from an expanded Stansted airport, and to help to revitalize docklands.

Mr John Adams, a transport planner from London University, who will be giving evidence on Hackney's behalf at a public inquiry this week, said that Hackney's local roads would not be able to cope with the traffic the new road could bring, and the result would be "bigger



jams, lasting far more of the day". The road and an alternative version planned by the Greater London Council would be a massive waste of public money, he said.

Parachutists hurt in crash on trees

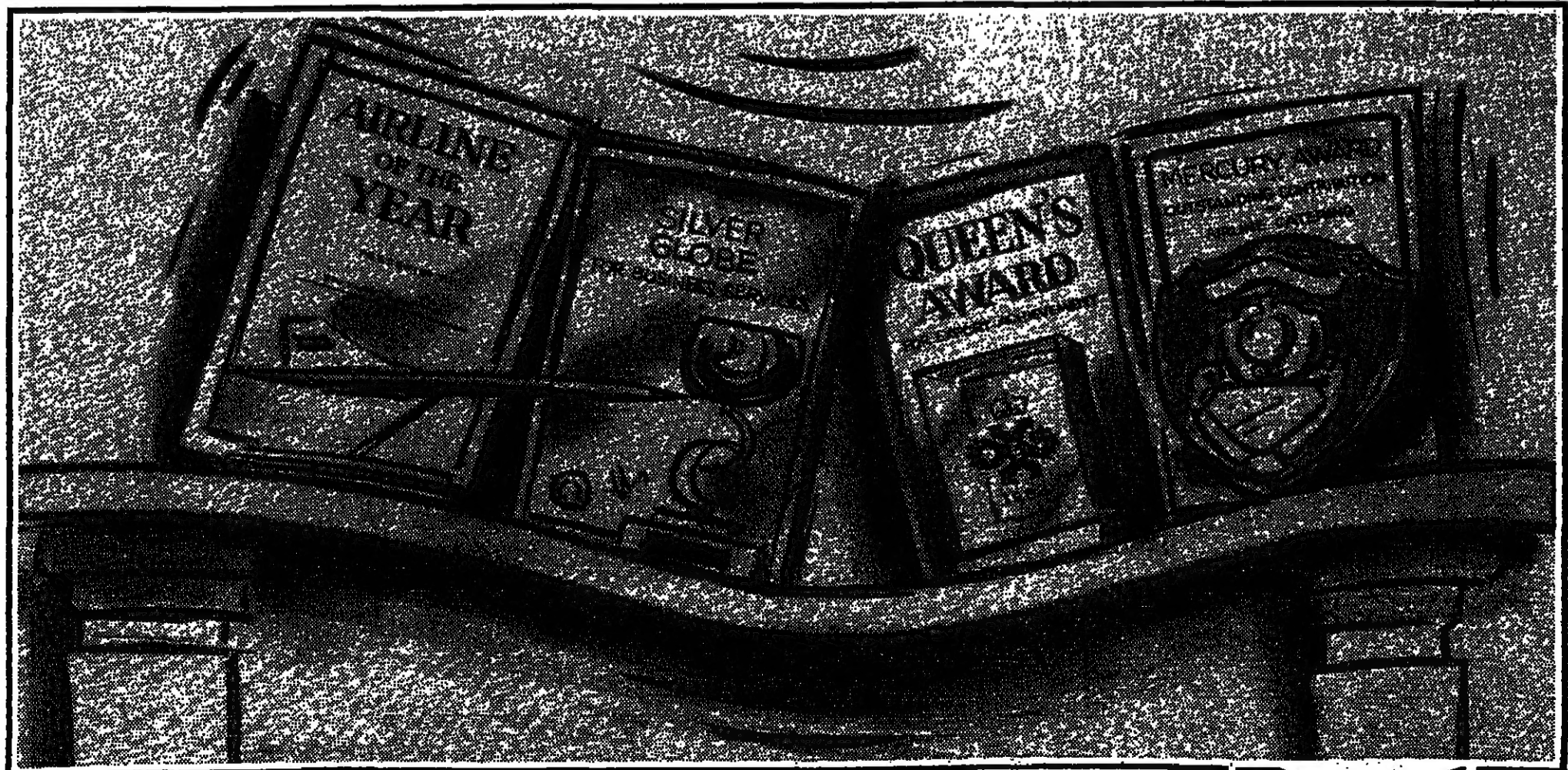
Three parachutists jumping with the Red Devils free fall team crashed into trees when they were blown off course during a charity event at Aldershot, Hampshire, yesterday.

Mrs Elsie Howden was detained at the Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot, with a suspected broken pelvis. Mrs Patricia Thomas was also taken there but was released after a check. She had dangled from 40ft for half an hour.

The third jumper, Dr David Robertson, the prospective Labour parliamentary candidate for Chester, was uninjured.

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Reagan to tell Congress of moral duty to stop a second Cuba

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

President Reagan is to make a rare address to a joint session of Congress on Wednesday in an attempt to persuade doubting Congressmen to support - or at least not actively oppose - his Administration's policy in Central America.

It will be only the ninth time in the past half century that a President has made such an appearance and his action is intended to dramatize the Administration's concern at the deteriorating situation in the region.

His address is the culmination of a huge lobbying campaign by senior officials who have been urging Congress to approve the Administration's request for increased military aid to El Salvador and not to blow the whistle on American covert support for right-wing insurgents fighting against the Sandinist Government in Nicaragua.

The campaign has included deep background briefings by Mr William Casey, the head of the CIA, and a guided CIA tour for a small group of Congressmen of the border area between Honduras and Nicaragua where the anti-Sandinist rebels are operating.

The message that the President will deliver will be a simple one. He will argue that Central America is the "front

line" and that the US has a "moral duty" to prevent the proliferation of Cuban-style regimes in the region.

One such regime - in Nicaragua - is already as much as the Administration can stomach. Last week Mr Thomas Enders, Assistant Secretary of State, gave warning of the possible introduction to Nicaragua of modern fighter aircraft by Cuba or the Soviet Union and even Cuban combat troops.

If El Salvador fell to the left-wing guerrillas fighting against Salvadoran government forces then, so the Administration contends, the contagion would very quickly spread to Mexico and to Panama in the south. To prevent this happening, the Reagan Administration argues that it must make the cost of interventionism for Nicaragua and Cuba as high as possible. This means giving increased military and economic support to El Salvador so that it can successfully combat the Nicaraguan and Cuban-backed insurgents. It also involves giving Nicaragua what one official described as "a taste of its own medicine" by encouraging the anti-Sandinist forces, known as *contras*, to sustain their hit-and-run tactics in outlying areas of the country.

However, the President will be met with considerable

scepticism on Capitol Hill where the memory of involvement in Vietnam has not completely evaporated. Some Congressmen, a relatively small minority, believe the US has no business getting involved in the region at all. They argue that the Administration's blinkered determination to see the region's upheavals in East-West terms means that it is incapable of lacking the root causes of the problem - the social, political and economic injustice which has characterized Central America for decades.

A larger group accept the Administration's contention that Central America falls within its sphere of interest, but disagree with the role which the Administration believes the United States should play. In particular they feel US attempts to bolster the Salvadoran Government and its armed forces will be self-defeating unless they are accompanied by pressure on the regime to reach a political accommodation with the guerrillas.

This view is supported by official US assessments that it will take years before the ineffectual Salvadoran armed forces are capable of bringing the present situation under control. Some Congressmen doubt whether this will ever be possible.

However the most contentious issue at present is the covert aid which the US is giving to the Nicaraguan *contras*. This is not just because the assistance is felt to be in violation of the spirit if not the letter of the Boland Amendment (which forbids aid to guerrillas "for the purpose of overthrowing the Government of Nicaragua") but also because it reeks of similar secret operations in South-east Asia during the 1960s. Such small beginnings can quickly get out of hand and culminate in huge US involvement.

Whatever its deep-felt concerns, however, Congress will be cautious in its response and will probably not let the President go away empty-handed. Legislators are aware that if they are seen to be tying the President's hands too tightly, he could lay the blame squarely on Congress in the event of El Salvador being overrun by the guerrillas.

So it seems likely that Congress will ultimately agree to most of what the Administration is asking in terms of increased military assistance for El Salvador, although probably with some conditions attached. But Congress will try to restrict as far as possible clandestine US activities in and around Nicaragua.

Brazilians unload arms planes

From Patrick Knight, São Paulo

Brazilian officials began unloading at the weekend light and heavy arms, ammunition, missiles, explosives and a dismantled aircraft from the four Libyan cargo planes impounded in Brazil a week ago. Most of the war material was of Soviet origins but there were also some American arms.

Tight security was imposed as the unloading of three Ilyushins began on Saturday at Manaus, in the Amazon basin, and of a C130 Hercules cargo aircraft at Recife airport. The operation is expected to be completed tomorrow. The Brazilian authorities fear that there might be booby traps on board the aircraft, which were en route to Nicaragua, when they were detained.

Libyan diplomats and crew members refused to witness the unloading of the aircraft.

Urgent talks plea by Managua

Managua (Reuters) - Señor Miguel d'Escoto, the Nicaraguan Foreign Minister, accusing Honduras of complicity in right-wing insurgency in Nicaragua, has called for direct talks between the two countries "before it is too late".

Early this month Nicaragua announced it was fighting some 2,000 well-armed right-wing exiles who had infiltrated from bases in Honduras in an operation run by the Honduran Army and the United States.

Since then, there has been a spate of warnings that Honduras and Nicaragua were drifting towards open war. Fears of a conflict between Honduras, the closest ally of the US in Central America, and left-wing Nicaragua have spurred fresh diplomatic efforts to bring peace to Central America.

Señor d'Escoto returned on Friday from a meeting of nine Latin American foreign ministers in Panama City, where they discussed the problems of the region and ways of ending the conflicts affecting three of Central America's six countries.



Señor d'Escoto: Talk before it is too late.

He said direct talks with Honduras were a priority.

Although Western reporters have accompanied Nicaraguan exile forces from bases in Honduras to combat areas deep in Nicaragua, the Honduran Government has denied involvement.

In Washington, spokesmen have declined to comment on the extent of US assistance to the right-wingers operating from Honduras, saying it was

established practice not to comment on covert operations.

Señor d'Escoto said the Panama City meeting had noted that some of Central America's problems required a bilateral solution.

Both Honduras and the US have so far rejected bilateral talks on Nicaragua's insurgency and high tension along the border between the neighbours.

A communiqué issued after the talks said they had provided an opportunity for a "preliminary diagnosis" of the region's ills. But it provided no prescription for a cure.

● SAN SALVADOR: the Salvadoran Government has ordered the release of 11 political prisoners detained at the Mariona prison, on the outskirts of the capital, AP reports.

Señor Marion Luis Velasquez, a member of the government human rights commission which coordinated the release, said it was ordered, on Saturday, by the general command of the Salvadorean armed forces.



Winning smile: Corinne Hermes, who sang Luxembourg's winning entry *Si La Vie est un Cadeau* (If Life is A Gift) in the Eurovision song contest in Munich on Saturday night before a television audience estimated at 500 million.

Her song won 142 votes from the international jury, six more than Israel's entry sung by Osa Haza, Reuters reports. Third was Carola Häggkvist of Sweden

with 126 votes. Britain's entry by the group Sweet Dreams came sixth.

Twenty countries entered songs and among those connected to the Eurovision network for the event was the Soviet Union which had no entry.

Apart from the 500 million viewers in 30 countries who watched the contest, held for the 28th year, the West German organizers said 200 million were listening on radio.

Riddle of expelled spy 'who does not exist'

Moscow (Reuters) - Pravda said yesterday that a US vice-consul in Leningrad named as D Shorer had been caught spying and expelled from the country.

A lengthy report in the Communist Party daily said he had been trapped by KGB agents as he picked up material from a dead-letter box in the city.

It gave no indication of when the incident had taken place, and no official called Shorer appears in the diplomatic lists of the past five years.

The US Embassy said staff there had no recollection of a vice-consul with a name like Shorer working in the Leningrad consulate.

A spokesman had no comment to make on the report, particularly as it appeared to concern events which took place several years ago.

The report centred on alleged world-wide efforts by the US Central Intelligence Agency to recruit Soviet citizens as agents.

It appeared intended as a response to Washington's decision last week to throw out three Soviet officials on charges of spying.

The central figure in the report was a Russian named Boris who was said to have been recruited by the CIA, while working as a development expert in Africa. On his return to Leningrad the CIA demanded he continue to provide information; but he confessed to the KGB and then served as a double agent.

Meanwhile, Mr Leonid Zamyatin, a senior Soviet foreign affairs expert, said relations between Moscow and Washington were unlikely to improve while President Reagan was in power.

● ROME: Italy may be preparing to expel about 100 alleged Eastern European and Third World spies named in a dossier drawn up by counter-intelligence services according to the Florence paper *La Nazione* Reuters reports.

Rifkind off to Moscow for dialogue

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, flew to Moscow yesterday on the first ministerial visit to the Soviet Union for five years, for talks aimed at improving East-West relations. He will spend two days in Moscow and two days in Leningrad.

"I want to achieve a number of things", he said. "First to emphasize to them the absolute unity of the Western alliance and the need to ensure a proper defence of the people of the West. Second, to make it clear that we do recognize the Soviet Union has a legitimate right to guarantee its own security but that it cannot be brought about by the subjugation of its neighbours as in Afghanistan. Third, I want to try and to see if there is a possibility of proper realistic dialogue."

Mr Rifkind is also to plead for the release of Anatoly Shcharansky, the dissident

Turkey lifts ban on political parties

Ankara (Reuters) - Turkey's ruling military national security council yesterday lifted a 1980 ban on political activities, paving the way for general elections promised for this autumn or early next year.

The council published the long-awaited political parties law and a decree regulating the extent of political activity permitted in the official government gazette.

It set May 16 as the date for resumption of applications to form new political parties; but said groups could go ahead with forming new movements before then.

The five-man council, which seized power in September, 1980, after a period of political violence, banned all political parties and activities, promising to return to democracy in spring 1984 at the latest.

Since the approval of a new constitution in a national referendum last November, a military-appointed consultative assembly has been preparing the political parties law for submission to the council for final approval.

The new law, in accordance with the constitution, bars from politics all leaders and top executives of political parties disbanded after the 1980 military takeover. It recommends prison terms for any banned politicians taking part in new parties.

The names of those banned from politics were scheduled to appear in the official gazette within a week and the council would have a power of veto over any of the founders of the new parties until the first elections were held.

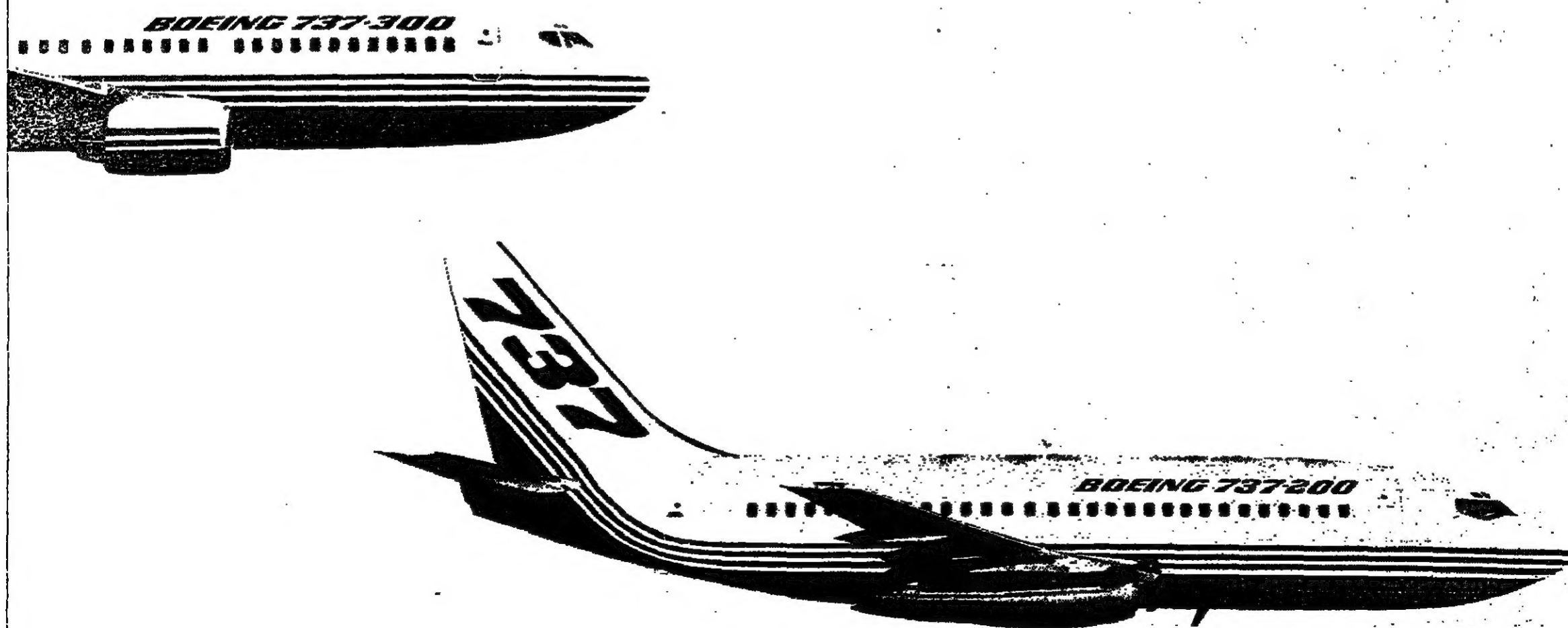
The council limited the scope of permitted political activity, banning all written or verbal comments attacking, praising or defending banned parties of members of them.

In its decree, the council also prohibited criticism or debate on any of its decisions, speeches by President Kenan Evren, or the activities of the martial law administration. Those banned from political activity were also banned from expressing their personal opinion on Turkey's past and future political and legal status, the decree said.

The bans on the former political leaders were seen as an attempt by the military to make a complete break with the past. General Evren has been emphasizing this point in recent speeches and asking his people not to follow the lines of the old political parties.

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مكتبة الأمل

Killer's accomplice to go to electric chair that took 10 minutes to work

From Our Own Correspondent, New York

The seventh American to die in the electric chair since 1976 was put to death on Friday night. It was grotesque. It took three separate jolts each of 1,900 volts over a 10-minute period to kill the convicted murderer, John Louis Evans.

The affair has raised fresh controversy over the death penalty and provoked new calls for its abolition.

Evans' lawyer, Mr Russell Canan, prison officials and several journalists were at the execution. Evans was wearing white prison clothes when he was strapped into the Alabama electric chair. A skull cap fitted with electrodes was placed on his head.

The electrode on his left leg burnt through and fell off during the first 30-second jolt. Prison guards repaired it and reattached it after doctors said he was not dead.

A second 30-second jolt was sent surging through his body. A puff of smoke and a burst of flame erupted from his left temple and leg. Doctors put stethoscopes on his chest, but said they still were not certain he was dead.

The official observers became emotional at the macabre spectacle.

Mr Canan then appealed to the prisoner commissioner in Holman Prison for clemency from Governor George Wallace and shouted that the penalty was "cruel".

There was an open line from the prison to the governor, but there was no response to the appeal.

The third jolt was given at 8.40pm and four minutes later Evans was officially pronounced dead.

Mr Canan said: "John Evans was burnt alive tonight the state of Alabama... tortured tonight in the name of vengeance and in the disguise of justice."

He added yesterday: "I hope that the method of execution will inspire the complete abolition of the death penalty because ritualized murder is barbaric in any form."

It was disclosed at the weekend that the state plans to use the same electric chair to execute Evans's accomplice, Wayne Eugene Ritter, on Friday May 13.

Mr Ron Tate, the Alabama Corrections Department spokesman, said the chair would have a routine check before the execution. He did not believe the chair was faulty, it had been properly tested before

Evans's execution and had already successfully electrocuted 154 Alabama convicts. Evans, he suggested, might have had some special resistance to electricity.

The chair had been inspected every day for five days before Evans's execution and tests showed it was working properly.

Evans had previously received two temporary reprieves, the second less than 24 hours before his execution.

A Supreme Court ruling finally cleared the way for the execution on a vote of 7-2 only hours before he went to his death.

Evans, who once demanded his own execution, admitted murder and said at his trial that he would do it again. In a final statement he said: "I have no malice towards anyone. I have no hatred towards anyone."

His lawyers described him on the eve of his death as a man "at peace with himself and ready for anything that comes along."

He was the first Alabama prisoner to be put to death in 18 years and the seventh in America since the Supreme Court reinstated capital punishment in 1976.



Show of hands: Supporters greet Chancellor Bruno Kreisky after he had cast his vote yesterday in the Austrian election.

Protest at Sinai anniversary

Mubarak issues challenge to Shultz

From Robert Holloway, Cairo

President Mubarak of Egypt threw down a challenge at the weekend to Mr George Shultz, asserting that the American Secretary of State could not consider his maiden trip to the Middle East a success without obtaining a pledge from the Israelis to pull out of Lebanon.

He also brushed aside what looked like an attempt by President Reagan to belittle the importance of the Palestine Liberation Organization, stating that Egypt continued to regard the PLO as the Palestinians' sole legitimate representative.

Mr Shultz is due in Cairo today at the start of a 10 day tour of the region seen here as a last-ditch attempt to salvage Mr Reagan's plan for Palestinian self-determination in association with Jordan.

Mr Mubarak said that Egypt has the Palestinians to "live in reality" and cooperate with King Hussein so that the US could start its work, but he

rejected Mr Reagan's contention, made at a White House briefing on Friday, that "negotiations don't have to hinge on the PLO."

Speaking at a ceremony in El Arish, the capital of Sinai, to mark the first anniversary today of the end of the Israeli occupation of the peninsula, Mr Mubarak said: "until now, and according to the Rabat summit, the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians."

Mr Reagan blames radical PLO elements for the failure of talks between King Hussein and Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader on implementing the Reagan proposals.

The Egyptians, however, put the blame, partly, upon the Americans. Although a Foreign Ministry spokesman here said on Saturday that the Shultz visit was a "proof of the Americans' willingness to try to get the Israelis out of Lebanon," Mr

Mubarak said that an agreement on withdrawal was "the minimum condition" for the success of the Shultz tour.

Mr Shultz is scheduled to confer with President Mubarak tomorrow and then fly on to Israel on Wednesday on the second leg of his tour.

Mr Mubarak found the celebrations in El Arish a little more lively than he had expected as some of 300 local people who had gathered to meet him began to protest at the lack of facilities provided for them since Egypt recovered the territory. Because of the heckling Cairo radio broke off its live coverage of the proceedings.

President Mubarak had been heard to say: "That's enough for the television and the press" and ordered foreign correspondents out of the room.

He told Mr Mohammad Salah-Nasrallah, chairman of the local Provincial Assembly, who had asked if he could air "certain issues and certain demands" that he had come for a celebration. "There is no room whatsoever to air our demands. This is not the place," the President said as a heckler shouted: "Our palm trees have died."

The heckler was dressed in Bedu robes to emphasize the complaint of some local people that "The authorities treat us like nomads, whereas El Arish has been settled for 5,000 years."

Nevertheless, the President agreed to let people air their grievances once the press had been escorted from the room.

An official here later asserted, somewhat implausibly, that live radio coverage of the proceedings had never been planned "because it was an occasion for discussing problems, not for making speeches."

Israel holds back on unilateral pullout

From David Bernstein, Jerusalem

The Israeli Cabinet yesterday discussed withdrawing its troops unilaterally to a 45km (28 miles) security zone in southern Lebanon, but did not take a final decision pending the arrival in the Middle East this week of Mr George Shultz, the United States Secretary of State.

The proposal for a unilateral Israeli withdrawal to southern Lebanon's Awali river, which was placed before the Cabinet by Mr Aharon Uzan, has been gaining support as the negotiations with Lebanon have remained deadlocked and Israeli casualties have continued to mount.

Jerusalem is placing considerable importance on Mr Shultz's visit, however, and was not prepared to prejudge the outcome of his mission by taking any hasty action.

But there is a clear feeling that time is running out, and that if Mr Shultz is unable to persuade Lebanon to be more forthcoming on Israel's security demands, some form of unilateral action will be unavoidable.

● **BEIRUT:** Mr Callaghan, the former Prime Minister, said yesterday that he saw some grounds for hope in the talks on the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon and that Mr Shultz's visit may help resolve the situation, Katherine Dourian writes.

Mr Callaghan spoke to a group of reporters before leaving Beirut at the end of his Middle East tour, that has also taken him to Jordan and Egypt.

There existed a procedural framework for a withdrawal, with a lot of detail filled in, he said.

"If I am right in saying so, the situation needs one more move, then Secretary Shultz can do it," Mr Callaghan said, adding that the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon could begin in a matter of weeks.

● **HARD'S VIEW:** Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, said in an interview published in the Lebanon yesterday the United States should exert more pressure on Israel to withdraw its

forces from Lebanon, AP reports.

Speaking to the English-language weekly *Monday Morning*, Mr Hurd said that the US administration should keep up its pressure on the Israelis to withdraw from Lebanon and freeze the building of Jewish settlements on the West Bank, "as we have encouraged them to do."

"We have pressed the Israelis to be more flexible and take more account of Lebanese concerns" in the American-sponsored Israeli-Lebanese troop withdrawal talks, he said.

Mr Hurd, who visited Lebanon as part of a Middle East tour earlier this month, said that there was a risk of an Israeli-Syrian military confrontation in eastern Lebanon's Bekaa Valley "as long as there is no movement on the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon."

● **GRANDE CHARGE:** Lebanon's military prosecutor has filed preliminary charges against a Lebanese Muslim suspected of throwing a hand grenade which wounded five US marines in Beirut last month, judicial sources said, Reuters reports.

They said Mr Asaad Gernanos, the prosecutor, asked for Nazmi Mohammad Al-Sakka to be charged with acts of terrorism and attempted murder.

Under Lebanese law, the prosecutor's request must be investigated by a military judge who may then draw up an indictment under which the accused can be tried by a military court.

● **JIDDAH:** King Hussein of Jordan sent two senior ministers to Arab capitals yesterday, before Mr Shultz arrived in a bid to revive President Reagan's peace plan, Reuters reports.

● **TUNIS:** Arab diplomats predicted a significant new development in US moves for Middle East peace, the main topic at a meeting of key Palestinian leaders, in Tunis last night, Reuters reports.

Iceland fails to find poll victor

Reykjavik (Reuters) Mr Gunnar Thoroddsen, Iceland's outgoing Prime Minister, yesterday urged political parties to form a majority government, after general elections which failed to produce a clear winner.

Mr Thoroddsen, who is retiring from politics at the age of 71, said on radio that Iceland's economic crisis was so severe that it could not afford to have a weak government or fresh elections.

No single party won a majority in Saturday's elections

to the 60-member Althing (Parliament), and the composition of a new coalition was uncertain.

Six parties contested the election in which the main issues were an annual inflation rate of more than 100 per cent, a weak currency and problems in the fishing industry.

The ruling coalition of centrists, Socialists and Communists lost four seats, while the opposition conservative Independence Party (IP) gained one to remain the biggest party

Analysts said the most likely combination would be a coalition of Independents and Progressives and even that could be achieved only through tough negotiations.

Since no single party could claim victory, the present Government is not obliged to resign though the analysts said Mr Thoroddsen was likely to step down in a few days.

President Vigdis Finnbogadottir would then probably ask him to stay on as caretaker Prime Minister until a new government is formed, they said, and this could take several weeks.

The analysts ascribed the losses of the centrist Progressive Party, which represents small sheep farmers and fishermen, to its weak performance in fighting inflation in Government.

The conservatives led their campaign with a tough anti-inflation programme and promises of tax cuts to stimulate the economy.

Three feminists, representing the first all-woman party to stand in a European general election, were elected with 5.5 per cent of the vote.

ICELANDIC ELECTION			
	Seats	Parties	%
Independ Party	23	22	38.7
Progressive Party	10	11	17.3
People's Alliance	8	10	17.7
Social Democrats	8	10	17.7
New Social Dem	4	0	7.3
Feminists	3	0	5.5



Masculine support: Sigridur Duna Kristmundsdottir, elected MP on a feminist ticket in Iceland, hears the results watched by her husband.

Swiss call time on Hongkong

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

Stung by what they regard as outright provocation, leading Swiss watch manufacturers have taken action to stop a display of watches from Hongkong in premises immediately behind the hall housing the annual European Watch and Jewelry Exhibition in Basel.

A court decision is expected today on the Swiss companies' submission that some of the Hongkong watches are imitations of high-priced Swiss watches with famous names.

Some 20 different models from Hongkong were seized by police on Thursday.

At last year's exhibition, the Hongkong exporters were refused display space, but allowed to show their wares privately to prospective customers in a room closed to members of the public. This year the exhibition organizers were under pressure to refuse Hongkong a stand.

Hongkong is now the leading exporter of lower-priced watches, especially quartz ones. Swiss sales of watch components to Hongkong last year were worth £150m, more than four times the value of the colony's watch exports to Switzerland.

The Swiss action reflects the manufacturers' anger and frustration at the growing number of cheap imitations of Swiss prestige watches emanating, mainly from Far Eastern countries, including South Korea and Taiwan.

Iraq claims big Iran push fails

Baghdad (Reuters) - General Abdul-Jabbar Shanshal, Iraq's military chief of staff, claims Iran has failed to occupy an inch of Iraqi territory despite massing 120,000 of its best troops to break through into Misan province earlier this month.

In a television interview, he warned Iran that any new attack on Iraqi territory would be crushed ruthlessly. Iraq claims nearly 15,000 Iranian troops were killed in the offensive.

Mintoff meets opposition after MPs end boycott

From Our Correspondent, Valletta

Mr Dom Mintoff, Malta's Prime Minister, and Dr Eddie Fenech Adami, leader of the Nationalist Party, have held their first reported meeting in a year after the opposition party recently ended a boycott of Parliament.

The meeting, on Thursday, comes after discussions between the ruling Malta Labour Party and the Nationalist Party after the latter's members took their oath of office before the House of Representatives on March 29.

The house is due to meet again today for its first sitting since then.

The Nationalist group enters parliament after a 15-month boycott to secure reforms in electoral and broadcasting laws.

In the last elections, in December, 1981, the Nationalists received an absolute majority of seats in Parliament.

After taking their oath of office on March 29, the Nationalist members walked out of Parliament in protest against a debate on Malta's relations with Europe, and the presence of broadcasting staff in the House for a transmission of the debate on all broadcasting media.

The state-controlled Broadcasting organization has boycotted the Nationalists for more than a year, while the party has not advertised on such media for the same period.

● **Hijackers return:** Two Libyan Army officers who hijacked a Libyan Arab Airlines Boeing 727 to Malta last February, returned to Libya on Saturday. They had given themselves up at the time on a guarantee by Mr Mintoff that they would not be returned to Libya, and that asylum would be sought for them in another country.

At a press conference before they left Luqa airport on Saturday, First Lieutenant Abdul al-Salam Abu Killa and First Lieutenant Ali Tawani Mansur al Mahdi said that what urged them to hijack the aircraft over Libyan territory was a family matter, which had nothing to do with politics. They said their decision to return to Libya was freely taken, and they felt the Libyan people would fully understand their problems.

They also maintained that they did not belong to any extremist organization.

Fanfani seeks to avoid blame

From Peter Nichols, Rome

Senator Amintore Fanfani's coalition Government will almost certainly resign within the week although a formula has yet to be found for allowing a general election without appearing to blame the Government itself for falling apart.

The Administration has been doomed since the Socialists, the second largest partner in the four-party coalition after the Christian Democrats, announced on Friday that they intended to force an election by withdrawing their support.

However, like the other partners, they wish to avoid being seen as solely responsible for the dissolution of parliament.

Senator Fanfani himself is understandably angry at the conduct of his principal allies. He was called back to the prime

ministership on December 1, after 20 years, and gave up the comfortable post of the Senate's presiding officer.

Five months later, he is about to lose office but he feels the period was not without success, including a long sought agreement on labour costs, and approval of the budget estimate.

He had hoped for further achievements, but they are now denied him. All he can now do is to attempt to defend his Government's good name combined with an effort to arrive at a pre-election agreement between his own Christian Democrat party and the Socialists in the next Parliament. Such an agreement, however, looks highly improbable.

Senator Fanfani will address the Senate on Thursday about

the Socialists' decision to abandon him. He has to wait because Monday is a public holiday and on Tuesday and Wednesday Dr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, will be in Italy and on Tuesday evening the Senate has to vote finally on the budget estimate.

Signor Fanfani should therefore be ready for his call on President Pertini on Friday at the latest to inform him of his Government's resignation. He is not expected to wait for a vote.

Important local government elections are due on June 26, and the Socialists feel that voting in the general election should take place on the same day. The Christian Democrats differ.

Up to 10,000 people braved pouring rain on Saturday afternoon to converge on the little town of Florence, 50 miles south-east of Rome, to protest against the deployment of intermediate-range nuclear missiles in Europe.

Just outside the town is the air force base which has been chosen as the site for the 48 cruise missiles, which Belgium has agreed to accept if the nuclear disarmament talks in Geneva breakdown.

This was a first "on site" protest, and attracted demonstrators not only from Belgium, but from Holland, West Germany and France. The Scottish National Party was among many groups which sent messages of support.

It was a good-natured dem-

onstration, with enthusiasm little dampened by the weather. Significantly, there were supporters from the whole spectrum of Belgian politics, proof that the anti-nuclear movement in the country is broadly based and is not the exclusive preserve of the left. Nevertheless, it was obvious that the movement is far from being able to rely on unanimous support in the country.

A group of young people handed out leaflets at the rally on behalf of the "committee for peace in liberty" protesting that the Soviet Union was doing nothing to reduce its nuclear threat in Europe.

The mayor of Gorpennes, which borders Florence, obtained a police order prohibiting the anti-nuclear move-

ment from entering his area because, he said, the anti-nuclear movement was only directed against the West, and behind it, he said, there were always subversive elements.

The organizers were careful to avoid any trouble and appointed 100 stewards to make sure the occasion went off peacefully.

● **TORONTO:** More than 50,000 Canadians demonstrated at the weekend against tests of cruise missiles on Canadian soil and the nuclear arms race in general, AFP reports.

● **UPPSALA:** A the end of a four-day meeting in Sweden, church leaders from 60 countries urged the destruction of all nuclear weapons within five years, Reuters reports.

Spain 'turns down' submarine refit deal

Madrid - Spain turned down a \$300m (£193m) deal to refit South African submarines in order to show its compliance with the United Nations arms embargo, according to information published here yesterday, Harry DeWitt writes.

The Madrid daily, *El Pais*, quoted "a high administration source" who added that contracts for the construction of more submarines for the South African Navy were also to be reviewed.

The report, claiming that Spain's Socialist Government took the decision to refuse the contract within the first two months of taking office, comes in the middle of a nationwide municipal election campaign.

No explanation has been given for the timing of the disclosure.

Raiders flee Mozambique

Maputo (Reuters) - Mozambican troops intercepted a group of South African agents inside the country last Tuesday and captured a quantity of explosives, the official Mozambique news agency said yesterday.

The agency said trucks had stopped the raiders in the Nazascha district near the South African border. The raiders, who were wearing civilian clothes, fled when confronted by the Army.

Rowling to go

Wellington (Reuters) - Mr Bill Rowling, the former New Zealand Prime Minister, has said he will retire from Parliament at the next general election, scheduled for November 1984. He has been an MP for 21 years and was leader of the Labour Party until replaced by Mr David Lange last February.

Killer bolt

Melbourne (Reuters) - One player died after lightning struck two hockey teams during a match in Hamilton, southwest Victoria. He was one of 34 people flooded by a bolt of lightning just before halftime in the match.

Royal birth

Queen Nur of Jordan who gave birth to a girl yesterday in Amman, King Hussein already has two sons by this wife and three other sons and five daughters from previous marriages.

Colony's future

Hongkong - Sir Edward Youde, the Governor, has confirmed reports that he will take part personally in the continuing talks on the future of the colony. Hongkong must be patient because the 1997 talks are complicated and all the issues important," he said.

Afghan amnesty

Moscow (Reuters) - The Afghan Government announced an amnesty yesterday for some prisoners and called on insurgents to surrender. Tass said. No further details were given of the amnesty which marks the fifth anniversary of Russian-backed rule.

Tehran march

Tehran (AFP) - About 20,000 Armenians marched through the streets here yesterday to commemorate the 68th anniversary of the massacre of hundreds of thousands of Armenians by Turkish troops. Iranian security forces protected the marchers as they paraded.

Namibia talks

Paris (Reuters) - A UN conference on Namibia opens here today amid growing African impatience over the West's role in negotiating independence for the South African-ruled territory.

Paris blast

Paris (AFP) - A bomb exploded outside the office of the National Union of Unemployed Police yesterday on the fifth floor of a building in the northern sector of the city. Five people were slightly injured.

Burning protest

Barcelona (Reuters) - Catalan nationalists burnt the Spanish flag and set fire to a Socialist election kiosk after a demonstration in central Barcelona.

On Pole target

Yellowknife, Canada (AFP) - Radio contact has been re-established with Ambrogio, the Italian who is attempting to walk to the North Pole. Contact had been lost for five days. He is only 150 miles from the goal.

Key test for Social Democrats

Portuguese go to the polls today

From Richard Wigg, Lisbon

The Portuguese people vote today in general elections for the first time since 1976, because of the collapse of the centre-right coalition which governed during three years of deepening economic crisis.

Despite a poor record in office, what happens to the Social Democrats, the main partners in that coalition, will be the key question the voters have to answer.

A lacklustre campaign - especially by the Social Democrats - with poorly attended meetings for all the parties, made it unlikely the Socialists would obtain the more than 42 per cent needed for a majority in the 250-seat Parliament, thus obliging them to attempt to

form a coalition with the Social Democrats.

Dr Mario Soares, the Socialist leader, ended his campaigning here on Saturday night calling for a "national consensus" to tackle Portugal's economic crisis. But he did not fill Lisbon's largest square.

All the parties stopped campaigning before the midnight deadline because they judged they could not compete with the evening's Eurovision song contest. In an atmosphere of disillusionment with the country's politicians the recently formed "25 of April Association", now grouping about 1,500 officers who took part in the April, 1974, revol-

ution, is to open its club premises here today.

Its leaders have denied they are waiting in the wings should the elections bring no government strong enough to tackle the nation's problems. But the widespread expressions of gratitude to the soldiers for ending almost 30 years of authoritarian rule indicate Portugal's politicians are now facing a test.

Dr Soares has given warning that he foresees up to two months of negotiations over a coalition because of the likely crisis today's vote could provoke among the Social Democratic leaders.

Senator Francisco Pinto Balsemão, the caretaker Prime Minister, said at the weekend he

wanted to be relieved of office in a month. President Eanes has only limited powers to hasten the coalition building if the Social Democratic leaders insist on bargaining.

Professor Carlos Mota Pinto, the man put in to lead the Social Democrats during the elections has his own future at issue in tonight's results.

● Prophets of doom: Portugal has had 14 Governments, ranging from Communist to Conservative, since the 1974 coup which ended nearly half a century of fascist dictatorship, Reuters reports. Today will be the tenth time since then that voters have been called to the polls.

Leading article, page 11

Twists in Poland's politics of food

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Food is high politics in Poland. In the past when food prices have risen, regimes have fallen and sometimes it seems as if there is more political volatility in a meat queue than in the Communist Party Central Committee.

Small wonder then that Polish and Western observers have been both fascinated and confused by the latest twists and turns in the politics of food. Mr Jerzy Wojciecki, the much respected Agriculture Minister, has resigned because of "fatigue". A new anti-inflation programme entails the taxation of farmers. Warsaw bakers complain that unless they can raise the price of bread - kept artificially low for political reasons - they will go bankrupt. Rumours abound of a reduction in the meat ration from next year.

What is going on? On the surface the food economy seems to be ticking over adequately - indeed supplies appear to have improved in the past year.

Western estimates of grain production suggest that the picture has not radically changed since last year's record crop, thanks to a mild winter and early spring. Based on winter sowings, Poland should produce 19.8 million tonnes of grain compared to 21.2 million last year.

But problems are tucked away behind the figures. The immediate question is how to persuade the farmer to sell more of his produce to the state. Only a small fraction of last year's grain crop was actually given to the state (and therefore the state shops).

The farmer does not trust the Government, and he does not trust the zloty. He has plenty of money at present but nothing to spend it on - there is not enough fertilizer or machinery to soak up his income.

The reason why Mr Wojciecki resigned, informed observers say, is bound up with this dilemma. The Government has set itself two main priorities:

Fugitive caught

Warsaw (AP) - The Polish authorities announced yesterday the detention of Jozef Piniar, one of five fugitive Solidarity leaders, who met this month with Mr Lech Walesa, the leader of the banned union.

PAP news agency said Mr Piniar was taken into police custody in his hometown of Wroclaw. A search of the flat in which he was hiding uncovered "anti-state" documents and large sums of Polish and foreign money.

during this austerity period: to feed the nation and to beat inflation. But one way of beating inflation, according to the Government's financial experts, is to soak up the zloties in the private sector, above all the farmers' zloties.

The various mooted possibilities - a land tax, or a generalized or specific farmers' income tax - have scared the farmers at precisely the time when confidence should have been built up. Mr Wojciecki, who had won the trust of farmers by resisting any idea of forced grain sales to the state and who had favoured a constitutional amendment guaranteeing the right to own and farm land, was clearly put in a difficult position. Extra taxes discourage production.

Senators to step up trade war

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The US Senate is expected to vote shortly on a Bill which, if approved, would allow the Administration to make use of wheat stocks held in reserve for famine relief as a means of subsidizing commercial food exports by American farmers.

Such a move would signal a new phase in the agricultural trade war which has been brewing between the US and the European Community. Both sides have accused each other of unfairly subsidizing food exports.

The measure is contained in the Agricultural Export Equity and Market Expansion Act, otherwise known as "The Helms Bill" after Senator Jesse Helms, chairman of the Senate agriculture committee, who has been urging the Administration to take a tough line with the Europeans on the issue of export subsidies.

The Bill also contains a

number of other provisions which are directed at the European Community's common agricultural policy. They include the mandatory export of 150,000 tonnes of dairy products a year and the use of up to half of the revenue from such sales to subsidize other agricultural exports.

Under the terms of the Bill, the Administration could make use of up to 1,500,000 tonnes of the 4,000,000 tonnes of wheat grain held in reserve for emergency assistance to countries hit by famine. The security wheat reserve was established by the Carter Administration in 1980. The wheat held in the famine relief reserve is worth between \$400m and \$500m (up to £320m).

The new measure would enable farmers to obtain cheap grain from the famine reserve and then sell it overseas at commercial rates. They are

proposing to use a hunger relief programme as ammunition in the agricultural trade war, said Mr Nick Mottern, an official from Bread for the World, a leading relief organization.

A number of relief organizations have mounted a campaign to have the provision amended before the Bill is approved by the full Senate. But it is an uphill battle for them as the Bill has the support of most farm organizations as well as many senators. It was easily approved by the Senate agriculture committee in March.

Paradoxically, however, the main ally of the Bill's opponents may turn out to be the Reagan Administration. Although broadly sympathetic with the Bill's aims, the Administration does not want to escalate the trade war with Europe before the Williamsburg economic summit at the end of next month.



Down on the farm: Princess Anne admiring a pear as she chats with Mr Shuji Nojiri at his farm yesterday at the start of her visit to Japan.

Princess's farmhouse tea

Utsunomiya, Japan - Princess Anne visited a farm house near Utsunomiya about 60 miles north of Tokyo yesterday, to have a first-hand look at the life of Japanese farmers.

Accompanied by her husband, Captain Mark Phillips, she arrived in Tokyo on Saturday for a week-long visit to attend the opening performance of the Royal Ballet's tour of Japan.

The royal couple visited the home of Mr Shuji Nojiri, aged 37, where they were given Japanese tea. They drove to Nikko, a hot-spring resort known for the sixteenth-century Toshogu shrine built by Shogun Ieyasu Tokugawa.

Tomorrow they will meet Emperor Hirohito and on Wednesday they will attend a dinner given by Crown Prince Akihito and Princess Michiko.

Difficulties of Maoris given royal sympathy

From W. P. Reeves, Wellington

It was a day steeped in Maori culture and tradition for the Prince and Princess of Wales yesterday when they were entertained at Te Poho O Rawiri Marae in Gisborne.

Under cloudless skies representatives of tribes and schools of the east coast presented haka and action songs on the lawns in front of the carved meeting house.

Responding to speeches of welcome, the Prince began with a greeting in Maori, a gesture which delighted the crowd. He went on to talk about the problems of adjustment and adaptability in a complex and technological society, difficulties of special relevance to the Maori people, particularly the young as they moved from traditional rural areas.

"Today we live in an era of bewildering change which makes adaption to modern conditions extremely hard", the Prince said. "Developments in technology and in industrial methods, together with the spread of urbanization and all that that means, have helped to wrench us from the sheet anchor of our past, from culture and traditional skills and those things which help to provide us with a sense of meaning."

The royal visitors moved freely among the crowd before meeting tribal elders inside the meeting house.

Prince William took the spotlight on Sunday. Making his first public appearance of the tour, the 10-month-old Prince started before the 100 cameras of the press corps. Dressed in a lemon shirt and apricot rompers he crawled, stood, gurgled, smiled, said something that might pass for "Dada", and otherwise delighted his parents.

Zia 'sallies forth into political arena'

From Hassan Akhtar, Islamabad

In a bylined front-page news analysis yesterday the editor of Islamabad's only English daily, *The Muslim*, said General Zia ul-Haq, Pakistan's military ruler since July 1977, has embarked on a three stage political plan leading to his emergence as an acceptable political leader by March 1984. Pakistan has been ruled for most of its 35-year history by Army chiefs.

Mr Mushahid Hussain, the editor, recalled General Zia's recent "Civic Jalsas" - another name for restricted public meetings - in the interior of Sind and at Gujranwala in the heartland of the Punjab, and observed: "This is definitely a new style of politics which the President has embarked on after being firmly in the saddle for six years."

"The President seems to be seriously entering the political arena as one of the options available to him in the near future."

He said General Zia had decided to "discard the intention to give the country a khaki-coloured constitution - one that would provide a permanent constitutional role for the armed forces in running the country."

The editor believes General Zia has been buoyed in his political ambitions by his foreign visits since the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, including his meetings with the leaders of the United States, China and the Soviet Union as well as by "the improvement in ties with India".

Several other political observers do not agree, however. They assert that General Zia will not quit his "military constituency", and will not risk any political role for himself.

Tonight on Channel 4, programmes to make you sit up.



8.00 Henry Cooper's Golden Belt.

Our Every watches the best young amateurs fight their way to the top.

9.00 Vietnam.

A 12 part documentary that shows both sides of the messy conflict that could have become World War III. It studies the anti-war movements as well as the battles.

10.00 St. Elsewhere.

Light relief after Vietnam, a hospital drama with the kind of sick humour to keep you in stitches.

See for yourself on Channel 4.

4

Feminist leader loses extradition fight

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles

Ginny Foat, the California feminist leader, will make her last appearance in a Los Angeles Court today, before being extradited to Louisiana to face murder charges in connection with the death of an Argentine businessman 17 years ago.

Last week the California Supreme Court rejected her request for a hearing as part of her efforts to avoid being extradited, and last week her counsel conceded that it was not in her best interests to continue challenging extradition to Jefferson Parish, Louisiana.

Mr Robert Tiller, her lawyer, now says she is anxious to go to Louisiana and begin the trial so

that she can return to California.

Ms Foat, aged 49, who is on leave from her position as president of the California National Organization of Women, was arrested by Los Angeles police three months ago in connection with the murder of Moises Chayo near New Orleans in 1965.

She was subsequently indicted for the crime by a New Orleans grand jury.

She has been in jail since her arrest and will appear in court today to be arraigned formally before being extradited. Her lawyers are expected to argue for bail pending trial.

SPECTRUM

When applied to sport, the frozen moment of a single photograph can analyse the psyche and anatomize technique. Even the humblest weekend player can learn from Borg's footwork and Mrs King's balance. These words and pictures are from a forthcoming book by Catherine Bell, the editor of *Tennis* magazine, and the sports photographer Roy Peters

Passing shots

John McEnroe

Wimbledon 1982

McEnroe is improvising a volley. His style is no style. It's instantly recognisable, and as hard to grasp as all those dinks and chips he's always hitting. He dangles the racket, drags the head lower than his wrist, waves it away from his body, jumps at the ball, does all the things you're not supposed to do. McEnroe makes nonsense of the usual geographic descriptions of grips - Eastern, Western, Continental. He holds the racket whichever way he wants. His grip here is a little higher on the racket handle than textbooks would advise, but this gives him extra feel and flexibility - "wristiness". In spite of his vocal aggression, John's always been a gentle player, a deflector of volleys and precise placer of ground strokes. He's 5ft 11in tall and weighs around 165 pounds, but he often gives an impression of frailty. He's prone to injury, a young man whose physical and mental condition are interrelated and finely tuned.



Billie Jean King

Birmingham 1982

If all the tennis players who ever lived were wiped from human memory and only Billie Jean King remained, you could reconstruct from the perfection of her technique the complete competitor. Here Mrs King is running into a backhand volley, her finest shot. Volleys are the heart of

aggressive, intelligent tennis, and no one, man or woman, ever volleyed better than Billie Jean, or ever understood so well the aesthetic and tactical possibilities of this beautiful stroke. Today the arid strategies of topspin have forced everyone back to the baseline and taken away the impulse to move forward.



Martina Navratilova



Wimbledon 1982

Miss Navratilova is on her way out of the Centre Court after beating Chris Lloyd and winning her third Wimbledon singles title.

The flowers are an equivocal intrusion. They remind us that the woman athlete remains a woman first.

Most of her life Martina has been caught in this dilemma, for in every respect but sheer muscle power she plays tennis exactly like a man. Our culture won't give her the freedom to do this unless she makes regular symbolic gestures asserting her femininity. So she dyes her hair blonde and wears make-up.

Once on the tennis court Miss Navratilova must forget all these gestures and try to win through strength and intimidation.

Ivan Lendl

Paris 1982

Ivan Lendl resembles a marionette temporarily detached from the puppet master. He's about to strike his fearsome forehand on the loose red clay of the Stade Roland Garros. Only a man of great strength can hold the racket like this. Lendl's Continental grip almost breaks the wrist coming under and over a high bouncing ball and whipping it with topspin.

Lendl's personality invites persiflage; he's proud and inflexible, a high-checked Slav from the industrial heart of Czechoslovakia. Justice dictates that this sometimes pompously upright youth should be caught by the camera in a most ridiculous position.



Passing Shots will be published in paperback by Frederick Muller on May 26, price £4.95

Chris Lloyd

Wimbledon 1982

Left: Everything is excluded from this portrait of Chris Lloyd. There's no ball, no racket, no sense of place. It's difficult even to say which stroke is about to be played.

Chris is shorn of glamour, nearly the pure athlete that part of her always wanted to be. Her hair's damped down with sweat, her face is boyish. The modest earrings are a gesture to fashion, to the well-groomed modern woman she'll change back into in the dressing room.

Mrs Lloyd looks like herself as a young girl; those wide and steely eyes would fix an opponent and will the victory. For several years almost all women players were afraid of her.

Growing up as a famous person Chris developed a personality at once reserved and sociable, vulnerable and calculating, introspective yet immediately affable. She can express a cynical wit, and in the next breath, a cosily conventional sentimentality.

She likes to be called "Chrissie", an incongruously dainty name for a woman so fundamentally tough.

Tennis is a game of recurring crises - again and again you'll see this fearful look in a player's eyes as the future hangs on a split second.

Above right: Chris invented this backhand drive. Her position calls to mind golf, or cricket. Her balance is perfect - right leg



braced against the body rotating following through high and controlled. Unlike Jimmy Connors or Borg, she doesn't release her left hand at any time during the shot. This is because her whole manner of execution is more static, and there's no room for improvisation in movement. Mrs Lloyd usually dictates the tempo of play so well that she is seldom caught having to change her mind at the last minute, so a gallery of stills will show her hitting exactly the same stroke thousands of times. She won many tournaments because her backhand was absolutely reliable; she learned new strokes and different strategies but it was always there to fall back on. Every great champion has a certain way of hitting the ball which is a signature. This is how Chris signed herself into history.

Bjorn Borg



Wimbledon 1981

Above right: Alone, Bjorn Borg, changed the way tennis was played during the 1970s.

He didn't invent topspin, and he wasn't the first player to use a double-handed grip, but no man had used either of these techniques to such effect.

Here, Borg is hitting his two-handed backhand on the Centre Court at Wimbledon. Experts said his style could never adapt to grass, which is slippery and makes the ball bounce low, but Borg won Wimbledon five times between 1976 and 1980, proving that for a man of genius the surface only exists to be subdued.

All Borg's wizardry is in this picture. Precise footwork has brought him a perfect position to

meet the ball early; the high, straight backswing will allow him to hit up and over the ball with heavy spin and good disguise.

His concentration is perfect. Those close-set eyes in a somewhat beaky face give away his secret weapon. Many other tennis players have copied his style; no one can share the rigorous application of his mind. Around his neck and on his wrist Borg wears the gold chains which are obligatory personal adornment for the modern male tennis professional, but on court he is without frivolity, immune to distraction.

Above left: Borg hasn't missed the ball here. He's swung it away and closed his eyes. The power of impact and the need for

balance have detached his left hand from the racket; his legs are caught half way into that step which will bring him around on the baseline to see what's happened to his shot and to prepare for a reply. Although Borg's eyes are shut he's always known where the ball is. This picture shows very clearly the points in Borg's physique which made him the ideal tennis player: broad shoulders, muscles bursting out of his shirt on his serving arm, narrow hips, perfectly muscled legs. In 1982, after 15 years of constant tennis, Borg left the game suddenly. He never publicly discussed his troubles, he never complained. He simply became indifferent. The mastery, the elemental dominance, will never come back.

The greatest little railway in the West

Great Little Railway Journeys 8: Paddington to Old Oak Common. Although only a mile or two in length, the line from Paddington to Old Oak Common runs through some of the most interesting industrial scenery in London. Jps Pinter's Biscuit Factory, the Nu-Quik Tyre Change Depot, The Harrow Road Jeans Mart, Albert Spanner's Wig and Mask Theatrical Second-Hand Exchange - all these line the route, as a memory of Britain's ever-changing role in world affairs. They are all now, unfortunately, closed.

The line was originally built to take workers from their homes in Paddington to their places of employ at Old Oak Common, or vice versa, and was planned by Isambard Kingdom Brunel as part of his grandiose scheme whereby travellers could go by train to Bristol, embark in the Great Britain to go to America, and travel on by the world's first all-metal airship, the Royal West, to the town of Brunel, Pennsylvania, which he planned as the world's first steam-powered civic centre.

At Paddington Station, built by Brunel himself, with the help of 40,000 Irishmen, I inquire the platform for the train to Old Oak Common. A friendly Caribbean employee points, and moments later I am sitting in the comfortable purloons of a first class carriage, still stamped BR in memory of Brunel Railways.

As we move out of Paddington, so calmly that one scarcely notices it, a voice is heard over the loudspeaker. "Hm. Ha. Yes. This is the guard speaking. This is the 9.15 Inter-City to Bath Spa, stopping at Reading. Thank you. Yes, Ha."

Many passengers, like myself, start up from their seats at the discovery that we are on the wrong train, and moments later we pass Old Oak Common at about 60 mph. It appears that it is now the custom to announce the destination of the train after its departure, to promote ticket sales among those who are taken hundreds of miles out of their way. But philosophically I sit down to enjoy the scenery of the line which was driven by Brunel with fanatical energy through such suburbs as Ealing, West Drayton and a place whose name I did not catch, but which boasts the Second-Hand Piano Foundry, perhaps built by Brunel himself.

Near Reading I am honoured by a visit from the guard himself, a Welshman in spectacles who informs me that a second-class ticket to Old Oak Common does not entitle me to sit where I am. Brunel's tremendous eye for detail is not dead yet. I hand over a cheque for £11 and am resituated in the second class, where I take the opportunity of studying my fellow passengers.

They seem to fall into three groups. Those reading the *Sun* newspaper and hitting their children over the head when they become noisy. Those listening to popular music on their headphones, which allow the drum beats to be heard two carriages away. And those business persons studying documents called Export Market Feasibility Studies.

Near Didcot, whose museum now houses many of Brunel's old engines, a new voice greets us over the loudspeaker. "Hello. Um. This is the Buffet Attendant. The buffet is now open in the middle of the train for the sale of light refreshments, snacks and drinks. Thank You." Immediately, all my neighbours arise and form a queue stretching for three carriages.

At the entrance to each carriage there are automatic doors which open and close at one's approach. The one nearest to me is kept permanently open because a young traveller has placed his rucksack on the spot which controls the door, resulting in the most tremendous draught. I go to engage him in conversation and he tells me with rough good humour what I can do with myself.

MORE OVER... Miles Kington

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 45)

ACROSS:

- 1 Eucharist taker (11)
- 2 Fast drink (7)
- 3 Number relationship (5)
- 4 Boy (3)
- 5 Month dividers (4)
- 6 Region (4)
- 7 Lubricant container (3,3)
- 8 Among (4)
- 9 Additional sign (4)
- 10 Band (6)
- 11 Large deer (4)
- 12 Flung (4)
- 13 Female (3)
- 14 Dwelling place (5)
- 15 Small rodents (7)
- 16 Anxious condition (11)

DOWN:

- 1 Olesgious tree (5)
- 2 Sound enhancer (4)
- 3 Christmas (4)
- 4 Shift paper (4)
- 5 Normal (7)
- 6 With matching sides (1,1)
- 7 Sun and planets (5,6)
- 8 Number system (6)
- 9 Turf (3)
- 10 Firm grasp (6)
- 11 Tectonic (7)
- 12 Pamper (3)
- 13 Death notices (3)
- 14 Prophet (4)
- 15 Preparation (4)
- 16 Acid (4)

SOLUTION TO No 44:

ACROSS: 1 Shrimp 5 Mamma 8 The 9 Whistle 10 Dodge 11 Knew 12 Put into 14 Thence forward 16 Perfume 18 Also 21 Croft 22 Ubbale 23 Rp 24 Leary 25 Tennyson

DOWN: 1 Seven 2 Reign 3 Mother country 4 Steep 5 Mediterranean 6 Madonna 7 Adonids 13 Atypical 15 Ear hole 17 Erupt 19 Stern 20 Dory

PROFILE: Iris Murdoch

Crusading in a fantasy world

FINDINGS

A weekly series reporting on scientific research: EXPLORATION

Adudadus do very nicely in Greenland

Along the cold fringe of East Greenland, any young Briton is likely to be known to the locals as *adudadus*. The term, which is entirely complimentary, dates back to the British explorer Gino Watkins, who hunted among the ice floes in these parts, introducing himself to the locals with a formal "How do you do?" The greeting was turned, quantity into a noun and has stuck ever since. Since Watkins's day (he was drowned after falling out of his kayak), there have been a number of *adudadus* from the British School Exploration Society and other expeditions undertaking projects and exploring the same magnificent arctic wilderness for bona fide scientific reasons.

The other day, as my dog team pulled to a panting halt in the centre of a sealing village, north of Angmagssalik, I met a group of wind-bronzed young *adudadus* led by Mr Ray Ward, economics teacher at Kingston Grammar School. They had been out on the far glaciers and snow-choked valleys for several weeks measuring the depths of snow to discover the potential for hydro-electric schemes.

It must have been clear to them that lifestyles have changed in Greenland since the innocent days of Gino Watkins, and the honest Greenlanders might now reply "Not very well, thank you" to his polite *adudadus*. Brigitte Bardot and a host of other conservationist-minded folk have, they feel, ruined the later national market for seal skins, which is the mainstay of many a local economy in Greenland. Alcoholism is a severe problem, and, in a community where rifles are as common as walking sticks, the murder rate is climbing alarmingly. There is some political pressure to return "to the old values", but the era of the video, of smart fashion and the cordless telephone is not easily discarded.

Taking to the air

A new way of exploring hostile ground covered by ice and cut by fast-flowing rivers will be tried out this summer by an expedition that plans to combine the merits of canoes and micro-light aircraft. An international team, led by Mr Paul Vander-Molen, a British research engineer and widely experienced canoeist, is to make a south-to-north expedition to the coast of the fjord length of the *Islands*. River that pours from the *Vatnajökull* glacier.

The explorers will arrive in July at the point on the Icelandic coast where the first settlers set foot in AD 877. From a lake in the centre of the glacier, kept from freezing by geothermal warmth, the powered hang-gliders, fitted with floats and flown by Mr Gerry Green, will survey the surface of the glacier, while the explorers penetrate beneath the ice. They follow a descent into the crater of the Askja volcano and a fast trip down the wild waters of the river, shooting a 178-foot-high waterfall by attacking the canoes to the undercarriage of the micro-light aircraft. "The neautical will become the aero-nautical," Mr Vander-Molen confidently declared. Finance for the project is coming from Britain and France, and films will be made.

With alpine-style

K2 may rank as only the second-highest mountain in the world, but it has the reputation of being by far the hardest of the 14,500-foot peaks to climb. No British expedition has ever succeeded on it, and no one has managed to make an "alpine-style" ascent. Doug Scott's strong nine-man team has set out, sponsored by the Mount Everest Foundation and the British Mountaineering Council, to achieve both these aims. "It is very steep, remote and unquestionably a harder proposition than Everest," said Scott, who should know, having climbed Everest by its south-west face and taken part in 17 Himalayan expeditions, including two attempts on K2.

Formation diving

Beneath the hotels and pleasure palaces of Grand Bahama lies an exquisite, flooded labyrinth known as the Lixian Caverns, home of the rare *Speleoneustes lucayanus*, a crustacean thought to be extinct 250 million years ago. The caverns are to be the target for an expedition of cave divers which will include Mr Rob Palmer, of Bristol, who is expert in the exploration of the flooded "Blue Holes" in the Bahamas. The expedition is approved by the Grand Bahama Government. He described the caverns as "incredibly spectacular", with "pristine, under-water formations that will be vulnerable to any haphazard or careless exploration." It is only about 60 feet down, five miles of passages which have not been completely explored, filled with the most beautiful limestone shapes. The Bahamas National Trust, however, rightly banned anyone from going into the caves. "With the rapid spread of interest in sea diving, the trust is concerned that the fragile environment could be ruined. The expedition will plot the caverns and suggest a suitable management plan." Ronald Fair

Iris Murdoch publishes *The Philosopher's Pupil* on Thursday.

It is her twenty-first novel. Her first *Under the Net* was published in 1954. *The Sea, The Sea* (1978) won her the Booker Prize for fiction.

First we were to meet in Steeple Aston. Her place. Then we were to meet in London. My place. Next there was the question of a French trip. Not for me, unfortunately. Finally, we compromised on Salisbury. By kind permission of Mr and Mrs Bayley's hostess for the weekend, the widow of a distinguished artist.

Iris Murdoch married John Bayley in 1956. He is Warren Professor of English Literature and a Fellow of St Catherine's College, Oxford.

I was sorry to miss Steeple Aston. In particular, the romantically wild garden through which John Bayley draws paths with a lawn mower. I would have liked to see for myself the greenhouse wherein sits the tank in which Iris Murdoch luxuriates, watched over by a classical bust.

Water is a pervasive theme in many of the Murdoch novels. In early books such as *The Bell* a lake casts an almost magic presence over the action. In *The Sea, The Sea*, it is even more central. In *The Philosopher's Pupil* much of the action, including the ghastly denouement, takes place at a once Roman spa.

As it turns out, the house in Salisbury is built, English cottage turned Venetian palazzo, right over the deep waters of the River Avon. Professor Bayley regrets that they have not yet swum there. But the regret is tinged by confidence in the future. Sitting above the fiercely swirling water, Iris Murdoch looks a very pretty person. Huge bright blue eyes and child-like complexion. A china cat.

She wears a blue and white blouse with a full. Not the expected philosopher's uniform. Iris Murdoch was for 15 years a lecturer in Philosophy at St Anne's College, Oxford. She has published three books of philosophy: *Sartre, Romantic Rationalist*, *The Sovereignty of Good* and *The Fire and The Sun*.

Two informants had tried to give me a descriptive preview. One had suggested "someone kindly, like a philosopher and not at all like a wicked author." The second saw her as a perfect reflection of her novels, "like a character out of Hieronymus Bosch - the very nicest character." On the whole I am inclined to agree with the first estimate. Though it must depend on one's image of a philosopher. The *Philosopher's Pupil* is a man; John Robert Razanov. He has, in his creator's words, "despaired of philosophy."

"Who could fathom Plato's mind? Unless one is a genius."

philosophy is a mug's game. There were not even any books any more. All the books were inside him now. Even the familiar act of reading had been taken from him. It had been his fate, not to be interested in anything except everything. If he could live another hundred years, could time reverse its sense and lead him gently into a precious clarity? As it was, he saw through every notion that he had ever had, the "insights" won by a sustained asceticism appeared to him now as so much rather nasty stuff which he had made up out of nothing. Artists have beauty and nature at their side, but a philosopher must contain his world inside his head until... it be unified, clarified... until he can become a god... or else perceive that all is nothing.

THE PHILOSOPHER'S PUPIL, p.130

The words echo Miss Murdoch's reported view that philosophy is almost impossible to do. The Iris Murdoch who sits above the waters of the Avon denies any relationship to her tragic catalyst. (The only character Miss Murdoch admits to drawing

Unless one is a genius, philosophy is a mug's game

from life is the very human dog in her latest book.) Philosophy is difficult, she admits. Particularly her sort which does not divide the intellect from the will. Much recent philosophy sees things of the intellect as "clear and hard and factual" while the will and the emotions are "peripheral and unclear" and that is where the religious instinct is presumed to lie. She says rather regretfully, "I've gone along my own road. I'm really very separate now from Oxford philosophers, which is a pity in a way.... The excitement of discussing philosophy has passed out of my life.... Not however out of her mind, nor out of her books, nor even, as a matter of fact, entirely out of her life.

In November, 1982, Iris Murdoch gave the Gifford Lectures in Edinburgh with the title "Metaphysics as a guide to Morals".

It is inevitable that any discussion with Iris Murdoch on philosophy soon leads to what would generally be called a discussion of religion. Having discovered that I am "croyant" a certain freedom seems to enter her conversation. She does not believe in God, "a personal God", which is why Buddhism has such an appeal for her. She does believe in "spiritual change". Christ is no more than a prophet. But the Christian mythology is, in her opinion, very important as "a mode of understanding". The religious dimension is essential. Here she bewails the lack of religion in China and, indeed, in England now. She cites as very dangerous the modern notion "that good and evil can be blurred" and that we should learn to accept the dark side of our natures. She says that "the absolute difference of good and bad" is almost a definition of religion. She pictures human beings "stretched out between these things. So one's always in movement."

To me this brilliantly de-

scribes the effect her novels produce. The characters seem to walk on a tight rope, with only darkness below and no particular end in view. Yet sustained by the very act of staying on and, as Miss Murdoch says, constrained to be always in movement. Our conversation, therefore, moves to the novelist. Though in a sense any attempt to separate novelist and philosopher is artificial.

But first there is an interruption in the form of a cheerful John Bayley appearing out of the rain. He has just bought an excellent tweed cap which his hostess later reveals as a product of the Bayleys' favourite shop - "Good as New". We stand up to stretch and peer admiringly at the soaring confidence of the Salisbury Cathedral spire.

One of the most pleasurable aspects of reading Iris Murdoch's novels is the feeling of confidence she inspires. The voice is so sure, instantly recognizable in the way Pinter or Powell are recognizable. She acknowledges this, though gently pointing out that she's had a few years to work on it and also warning of the danger of complacency, the barrier to progress. She brings to our discussion a wave of enthusiasm and, yes, enjoyment in the battle for creation. None of the fashionable anguish here. She rather gives the impression of a well-equipped warrior going into battle with blood up and determined.

The novel is, after all, her great love and has become her life. The traditional novel, that is, she describes it as a "hall of reflection", a great huge place, "a happy form" which can encompass every sort of comedy, of tragedy. Shakespeare was the first novelist... or perhaps Murasaki Shikibu, who in the eleventh century wrote *The Tale of Genji*, the great Japanese masterpiece, should be allowed first place. This attitude makes clear why her books cover so many pages.

Of the last three novels by Iris Murdoch, none falls below 500 pages. *The Sea, The Sea* is 501 pages. *Nuns and Soldiers* is 505 and *The Philosopher's Pupil* is 576.

Critics, even those essentially admiring, have suggested that editorial work would improve the overall impact. But you need volume to fit in all the different aspects of life, as Miss Murdoch describes life. She sees herself as belonging to the Anglo-Russian tradition. She reads the great nineteenth century novels over and over again - "They feed one". She has little time (perhaps literally) for contemporary fiction. But she feels it is in an "interesting" state, the writers unnecessarily concerned with technical problems when all they need to do is "relax" and learn the great form that is there waiting for them. Perhaps her critics would feel she, herself, is too relaxed. Certainly there is a modern brand of impatience which does not wish to chew over images and character in the Murdoch manner.

I find her enthusiasm exhilarating, making me appreciate what an exciting teacher she must have been. (A clever and ebullient friend of mine attending St Anne's in the 1960s had always painted a happy picture of their tutorials together.)

Humbly offering the information that I have written one novel to rival hers in length and another inspired by the story of Anna Karenina, I am rewarded by an encouraging "Well done!" Novel writing, it is clear, is a matter of constant hard work and hard thought. Inspiration is another matter altogether and cannot be profitably discussed.

"Hard reflection" is the way she describes the early planning stage for a new novel. By the time this stage is over, every chapter is created in note form, every character moulded. And, as a crowning nod, given names. Characterization and the shifting relationships between a fairly large cast of characters are the meat of Iris Murdoch novels. She likes "a wide lens", distrusts the novelist's tendency to concentrate on one or two characters whose point of view thus dominates the whole work. *The Philosopher's Pupil*, for example, although pivoting on the relationship between master and pupil, also moves its axis on to other characters. Indeed, the book is some way forward before it becomes clear that George, the pupil, has no worthwhile existence outside the sphere of his teacher, John Robert Razanov. And it is only gradually that John Robert himself takes command of the centre of the stage. Other themes, notably the death of one child set against the continued existence of his cousin, are allowed to seem more important than they turn out to be. Again, a kind of delaying tactic which goes counter to most modern writing, in which an immediate impact is sought.

But this is part of the Murdoch game. The eye of perception alters continually, subtly. There are tricks, red herrings. Even the God-like author does not get it right all the time. A described action may be modified by the word "probably". Besides this, the flow of the story is often interrupted by a narrator. Miss Murdoch says this is to make it easier to do some moralizing and also to give another perception to the story. *The Sea, The Sea* is notable for an enthralling opening section which is immediately denied:

"I had written the above, destined to be the opening paragraph of my memoirs, when something happened which was so extraordinary and so horrible that I cannot bring myself to describe it."

With such teasing in mind, it is interesting to hear Miss Murdoch talk admiringly about the virtues of the "straightforward" novel. My suggestion that her novels are as straightforward as an eel is countered with the advice that "There are a hundred ways to tell a straight tale". And it is absolutely true that a cold-blooded analysis of most of her stories (very difficult to achieve) will reveal a surface narrative which could be in the old Boots lending libraries. However, she has chosen to uncover the underside of her stories, the dark secrets and obsessions which motivate the characters. This is where the oddness that people pick out as the Murdoch characteristic comes from. "The drama of the human heart" make the central matter of her books, she says. And the human heart is notable for its passion for secrecy.

Much of what she uncovers is, unsurprisingly, sinister and frightening. Iris Murdoch's preoccupation with the battle between good and evil ensures

that there are always unpleasant figures hardly rising above the ever-threatening darkness below. Yet there is hope too. The struggle continues. Battered and bruised, the human spirit fights on.

In simple terms of readability, Iris Murdoch has two great gifts. She has a superb ear for dialogue, treating her conversationalists like dualists wielding words like rapiers. Backwards, forwards, in and out. It takes a supple mind to bring off several pages filled with nothing but the spoken word. The other gift is the unfashionable one of description - both of geography and character. She is not afraid of adjectives and will sometimes use a whole row of them without self-consciousness.

"Earlier Alex had again seen the pretty vixen reclining while four fluffy milk-chocolate brown cubs with light blue eyes and stubby tails played tig on the lawn."

THE PHILOSOPHER'S PUPIL, p.423

This visual concern was doubtless why *The Bell* was chosen to be turned into a recent television serial. And, indeed, why it worked so well, despite the very untelevisual psychological complications of its characters. Broaching the subject of description with Miss Murdoch, I am met with a lovely smile and "I like descriptions. I like places."

Our own visual imagery has now included a swan on the river, hailed in a friendly way by Iris Murdoch as "Old boy". This for some reason reminds me of the subject of children. The Bayleys have none, "Alas!". And Iris Murdoch was herself an only child, enjoying a "perfect trinity of love" with her mother and

There are a hundred ways to tell a straight tale

father. Elsewhere she has said that her lack of siblings led her towards creating characters. Her fictional child - they usually come one at a time - is a powerful being, possessor of a secret greater even than the adults. This might be a product of Miss Murdoch's own solitary childhood imaginings, or of a lack of familiarity with the more ordinary, loud-mouthed variety parents learn to treat with contempt.

Raising the subject, I am answered by the unarguable point that "the entry of a child into any situation changes the whole situation". Besides she admits cheerfully to enjoying creating children and "to having a very nice child" in the book she's writing at the moment.

Yet again, I'm struck by the gleam of excitement. Another book in progress, more creation. More reaching to something beyond the everyday. Art, in her view, is one of the best ways of getting to the meaning of life. True art, that is, good art. For, as Plato pointed out, art can be a terrible trickster...

But before we return inevitably to "religion and morals" - Iris Murdoch's own summary of her major concerns - I want to stay with the everyday a moment longer. What are her views on politics, for example, and the changing role of women? It sounds terribly dull, even to my

Life and works

born Dublin, July 15 1919
educated at the Froebel Educational Institute, London;
Badminton School, Bristol;
Somerville College, Oxford.

Her books:
1953 *Sartre, Romantic Rationalist*
1954 *Under the Net*
1955 *The Flight from the Enchanter*
1957 *The Sandcastle*
1958 *The Bell*
1961 *A Severed Head* (play, 1963)
1962 *An Unofficial Rose*
1963 *The Unicorn*
1964 *The Italian Girl* (play, 1967)
1965 *The Red and the Green*
1966 *The Time of the Angels*
1968 *The Nice and the Good*
1969 *Bruno's Dream*
1970 *A Fairly Honourable Defeat*
1970 *The Sovereignty of Good*
1971 *An Accidental Man*
1973 *The Black Prince*
1974 *The Sacred and Profane Love Machine*
1975 *A Word Child*
1976 *Henry and Cato*
1977 *The Fire and the Sun*
1978 *The Sea, The Sea*
1980 *Nuns and Soldiers*

Her plays:
1970 *The Servants and The Snow*
1972 *The Three Arrows*
1980 *Art and Eros*

Her poems:
1978 *A Year of Birds*

ears, but we persevere. She used to vote Labour but now finds herself out of tune with modern politics. More particularly, she is a very convinced European, feeling the Common Market vital to Britain's interests "politically, spiritually and commercially." Earlier she had responded to my half suggestion that her vision of life might be limited after 30 years living in Oxfordshire by pointing out very firmly that she had travelled to America, Russia, Australia, Thailand, Singapore, India, Iceland, Japan, to name but a few.

Feminism she commends, though she is very opposed to its segregationist elements. She notes that the position of women, children and homosexuals have all improved over the past 20 years despite the prophecies of the disintegration and decay of our society.

Later, over lunch, I get a real whiff of crusading feminist spirit. And it is, of course, only after we have drifted back to "religion and morals". Like all sensible people, Iris Murdoch does not enjoy the formal interview. Before going to our meeting, I'd been given a clipping which opened: "Iris Murdoch makes good books and bad interviews. Possibly because of our position over the racing river (a way of ultimate escape?) our talk was relatively painless. However it was not till lunch that I realized that Miss Murdoch absolutely loves talking. And that she is very good at it - particularly when there's a move towards argument."

An extremely good restaurant ("Oh isn't food a pleasure!") in the wet streets of Salisbury is the location. Subjects, as they say, are wide-ranging. Herpes is an improbable opener. But it is the subject of women for the priesthood that really arouses the passions. Iris Murdoch is the most vociferously in favour and myself - daring pupil and teacher - most determinedly against. Although our hostess, daughter of a bishop, might claim more knowledge of the matter.

Argument, conversation was always the hallmark of the Oxford don. Perhaps it still is. The conversation of ideas is unfortunately rare among my contemporaries. Soon we move from the sex of priests to the more general question of spiritual belief. Excitement rises, the core of the matter probed more and more fiercely until in a haze or words and ideas I hear Iris Murdoch cry, "Christ is real! Christ is real!" John Bayley looks somewhat anxious, feeling, possibly, that the statement is open to misunderstanding. But I presume to see what she means.

Christ is real for her in the way a work of art is real. During the interview she had said, "I believe we live in a fantasy world, a world of illusion. And the great task in life is to find reality." Christ's story is one way of arriving at the truth which Miss Murdoch perceives as a religious sense. In her dramatic words, both philosopher and artist are present. It confirms my belief that, whatever the individual strengths or weaknesses of this year's Murdoch offering, the novel has seldom had a more original, more energetic or serious practitioner.

I am also reminded with astonishment of the warning of a friend who had sat next to Iris Murdoch at a dinner party. "She doesn't speak. She hums."

Rachel Billington

THE TIMES DIARY

Bloods up

This week's issue of *The Field* suggests that Michael Foot may have raced off after a false scent when pledging his party to ban hunting. It reports a debate attended by more than 100 trade unionists at Huddersfield Friendly and Trades Club. Proposing a motion to fight any party that tried to drag field sports into politics, G Woodrow catalogued trade union involvement in the Colne Valley Beagles. "One of the ex-Masters, Keith Brook, AUEW shop steward, huntsman P Wood, Nupe whippers-in C Riddale, AUEW, M Fitton, Nupe, on the committee K Vickerman, Textile Workers' Union, T Reast, Fire Brigades Nupe, myself, AUEW... Master of Mink Hounds, G O'Brien, Nupe, huntsman and whips from the unemployed." Woodrow's resolution was passed, unanimously.

Bolt from the blue

That the right-wing historian David Irving should question the authenticity of the Hitler diaries occasions no surprise. In a recent issue of *The Bookeller* his publishers, Macmillan, re-advertised his offer of £1,000 to anyone who could provide documentary evidence to refute any statement in his book *Hitler's War*. If the diaries are accepted, the money must be surely at risk.

Singalongakiri

Dame Kiri to Kanawa goes pop this week, with a recording label all of her own. Her single, released this week with the catalogue number KANA-1, is culled from her classical album, *Songs of the Auvergne*, which has climbed higher in the LP charts than any previous Decca Classical release. It is currently at No 57.

What's in a name?

There could be some nominal confusion over the new issue of *The Fiction Magazine*. It has a story entitled "Outward Journey" topped with an etching of a departing train. It is by Peter Parker. Not that Peter Parker: this one is a writer who was a contributor to *Gay News*. Then Clive Sinclair makes two contributions: one is an interview feature, the other a gift of £3,000 sponsorship. Not the same Clive Sinclair, though. One is the young novelist literary editor of *Jewish Chronicle*. The money is from Clive Sinclair of the microchips, and very welcome it is since the Arts Council has drastically cut the magazine's grant for the coming year.

Lacklustre

Britons, you fail to fire the literary imagination. The verdict is Anthony Burgess's, voiced in his Afterword to *The Heritage of British Literature*, to be published next month. In a survey of post-war writing Burgess says Britain produced nothing to compare with America. There are no British writers to compare with Belloc, Maupassant and Gide. Vidal Braine, Waugh, Silhouette and the 1950s new wave were not "a true literature of revolt", though he does have guarded praise for such Commonwealth writers as Doris Lessing, V. S. Naipaul and Patrick White. The trouble generally with the English novel was the lack of anything to write about, he postulates. "I myself had to go to Malaya to learn how to write fiction."

● Architect Peter Benton tells me that a copy of the Building (1983) which he recently purchased was three pieces of paper six inches by nine and a half, costing £1.25. "I think," he says, "my next set of building regulations will have to come from the Japanese."

Chew choice

I have it from the British Food Export Council's latest bulletin that toffees are much in demand from Israel, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip. The Israelis like them dried, which must be tough, and the people in Gaza prefer them in decorated tins. The Lebanese, in contrast, crave more whisky, and who can blame them?

Nitpicking

Mike Scott wrote to his local (Bletchley) DHSS requesting a new national insurance card and enclosing a cheque to cover seven self-employed stamps. He has so far received the following replies, in order: the new card; a note acknowledging receipt of his letter; a receipt for the cheque; and a note asking the name and number of the person whose card is to be credited with the sum. He has replied, and is expecting quite a lot of correspondence shortly.

When Susan Baker gives her next concert, at the Fairfield Halls on May 3, there will be a new score of violin. It was fashioned by a Sicilian prisoner of war held in an African camp during the last war. Baker was given it by an elderly fan who worked in a music shop and who paid £2 for it out of sympathy when the shop manager turned away a woman anxious to sell. She says the instrument is beautifully made, but being all hard Malawi wood does not resonate as well as traditional maple and pine. John Bunyan, Baker reminds me, made a tin fiddle during his imprisonment, and it is still to be seen in Bedford Museum. Naturally Baker has a tin fiddle of her own. It is made of two Spanish olive oil tins and an Australian beer can, carries a seal of purity, and "makes a fine oleaginous sound".

PHS

Bernard Levin: the way we live now

Don't jump, Denis, don't jump!

During the Mau Mau rebellion in Kenya in the 1950s, there was much talk, usually after the ladies had left the room, of an oath taken by those admitted into the inner ranks of the insurgents. The Mau Mau oath, so the story ran, was of such unspeakable and obscene barbarism in what its swearers pledged themselves to do, and was accompanied by acts of such frightful bestiality as part of the ceremony, that it put the initiates beyond the furthest limits of civilization, and left them ready to do any act of darkness required of them thereafter, so entirely dehumanized were they by their participation in the grisly rite.

It has often occurred to me since that there are parallels for the Mau Mau oath, even in our comparatively genteel political process, in the form of actions which, once taken, leave the taker unable to find any good reason for refusing any subsequent demand made upon him, however unthinkable it would have been only a short time before.

I am in blood.

Stepped in so far that, should I

Returning were as tedious as

go on.

I have argued in the past that the

Suez affair of 1956 was the Tories'

Mau Mau oath; the shameless,

unqualified, naked lying on the part

of the Government - to Parliament,

to the country, to the press, to the

United Nations, to the Americans,

to Nato, to the troops themselves -

severed a tenuous but real link with

principle that until then had

survived all the exigencies and

necessary compromises of politics,

and in doing so robbed Britain

of something that has never been

subsequently restored, though in

recent years Mrs Thatcher has

shown some sign of meaning what

she says and vice versa.

All of which brings me to Mr

Healey. Whenever the election takes

place, he will be the key figure in

the Labour campaign. Mr Foot is a

burnt-out case, taken seriously by

nobody on his own side or the other;

Mr Shore's attempts to produce a

coherent and realistic economic

policy for his party have succeeded

only in reinforcing the truth of the

well-known computer-programmers'

acronym GIGO ("garbage in, garbage

out"); Mr Wedgwood Benn is the

figure whom the other Labour



Labour in turmoil, as seen by Cummings in the Daily Express last week

leaders will conspire to pretend does not exist; Mr Merlyn Rees needs no such conspiracy, for he doesn't exist, nor is it necessary to invent him; Mr Silkin - but I think I had better stop here, lest I should say something we would all regret.

Mr Healey, however, is real, intelligent, skilled, forceful and almost ready. I say almost. "Oh, the little more and how much it is! And the little less and what worlds away!" For Mr Healey has a decision before him, and it is no light one. He has to decide whether he is going to take his own Mau Mau oath.

SOME say that he has taken it already, that he is forsworn beyond redemption. I think not, despite some ominous evidence; but his decision cannot be put off much longer, nor concealed once taken. The nature of the decision he faces is obvious. Is he going to reject his party's policy of unilateral nuclear disarmament - which includes not only giving up our nuclear weapons but expelling our Nato allies from Britain - or is he going to stomp the country telling lies? I put it as bluntly as that because there is no third choice for him, wriggle as he may. If Mr Healey says he believes that Britain ought to disarm on her own, he says that which is not true, for he does not believe it, and no amount of

drawing attention to the small print in the draft manifesto (so full of weasel words, incidentally, that it might have been written by Sir Harold Wilson himself) will save him. Mr Healey believes in unilateral disarmament; he believes that unilateral disarmament is not, as CND falsely claims, a step towards that goal, but the negation of it; he knows that the inevitable consequence of Britain's abandonment of nuclear defence is our ultimate withdrawal from Nato, and he believes that we should not withdraw from Nato. In short, he believes that his party's policy is dishonest in conception, wrong in principle and disastrous in effect, and to assert that this is what he believes it is not necessary to bug his pillow; everything he has said and done for 30 years puts it beyond argument.

Now he stands on the cliff edge of his personal doom. Once he jumps, Newton will do the rest; once he begins to say he supports his party's policy of unilateral disarmament, the Mau Mau oath will take irreversible effect, and he will be indistinguishable from Mr Hattersley. Mr Hattersley, after all, is no more in favour of his party's nuclear policy than is Mr Healey, but neither is he in favour of cannibalism, yet he will support both the one and the other without the smallest disturb-

ance to his equanimity if he thinks such action will bring him closer to the attainment of his political ambitions.

And is Mr Healey to step into the same mire, to insist, for the same ignominious reason, that black is white, hot cold, treachery loyalty, surrender resistance, war peace, falsehood truth? I was in the hall at Scarborough when Hugh Gaitskell promised to fight and fight and fight again to reverse his party's disastrous commitment to nuclear surrender, and I watched those who thought like Mr Healey applaud that speech, while Gaitskell's enemies - who were, and are, Mr Healey's enemies and this country's enemies - sat with their arms folded. The policy was reversed, and Mr Healey played his part in its reversal. Nothing in principle has changed since the day that Britain's commitment to Nato and its policy have become more important, and her abandonment of her commitment has become concomitantly more dangerous.

Mr Healey, of course, has not abandoned that commitment. The question is whether he is going to pretend that he has, whether, that is, he is going to cross a river which, by his character as an honest, honourable and patriotic man, will be not the Rubicon, but the Styx.

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David Watts, in the first of a series, reports on the rag-tag army fighting communist insurgents in the Philippines

Purging the peasants as if Vietnam had never been

Davao, Mindanao

Torches bobbing in the darkness, four boys walked through the tropical night. From the roadside came a stream of machine gun fire. One was killed immediately. The three others lay wounded.

As a jeep pulled up to help them, the gunmen waved the driver away. "We'll take them to hospital," they said. But they never got there. The following day their bodies were found stabbed to death after a night in a "safe house" used by the Philippine Constabulary. The boys had been out frog hunting.

Soon after, the agent alleged to have led the killers shot three men in broad daylight in front of a school in the provincial town of Tagum. After representations he was reluctantly arrested, only to be released within two weeks.

Nasario Lasaca was already a convicted murderer when he joined the paramilitary intelligence ranks of the constabulary. He was recruited in the war against the communist New People's Army (NPA), and he is one of the reasons why the Philippines is the only country in Asia where communist insurgents are gaining ground.

Lasaca's methods are repeated all over the Philippines. Wherever the communists are active, civilians are "borrowed" or "salvaged" in Filipino terminology by the military. They are never seen alive again.

The Government's proclivity for using men like Lasaca, who kill, torture and maim, and then decline to discipline them, is convincing the hard-pressed people of Mindanao that they cannot expect justice from the local military and government. The threat from the NPA seems to have convinced some police and paramilitary units that anything is justified in maintaining law and order and rolling back the insurgents.

In a gruelling, rainless summer, the burned red-brown hills of Mindanao, long stripped of timber, typify the exhausting problems of the whole country. The rains will come in the next month or so, but relief from oppressive one-man rule and economic policies which disproportionately benefit the multi-nationals and the Manila elite is nowhere in sight.

Falling world prices for its principal exports - coconut oil, sugar, fruit and minerals - over the past few years have left the government on the defensive.



A gun-toting Filipino woman who is a member of the rag-tag anti-communist forces

Mindanao sees a concentration of the effect of Manila's unwillingness to rein in some of its more corrupt elements and its concentration on development of a kind which pays little heed to local needs. Earlier this year, nine battalions of troops were brought in to fight the NPA.

Regular units, notably the marines, have earned a good reputation with the local people for correct behaviour. When one marine unit prepared to pull out of a provincial town recently the mayor begged them to remain and burst into tears at the thought of being left to the mercies of the Constabulary and the undisciplined Civilian Home Defence Force, a rag-tag force recruited from local barrios armed with American M16s.

"The Constabulary is being used to run the country, and is thoroughly corrupt," a priest told me. "They are not innocent of this in Manila. It goes to the highest levels of the government."

The people have nowhere to seek redress except the church or the NPA. In the Davao area, representations to the church rarely get top-level attention: the bishops prefer to keep their links with the rich and politically influential.

When a priest asked his bishop to take up the case of three young people detained as NPA suspects and tortured for three days, the bishop quickly changed the subject.

struggle is the last resort for us, but we use arms only against the manipulators."

Ironically, the NPA man learned fundamental western rights from an American teacher: for seven years from 1971 he was a guerrilla in the hills before taking up political duties. He is engaged and is buying a house with a bank loan, but sees nothing inconsistent in that. "Filipino-style communism," as he calls it, "has a little bit from Mao and a little bit from Marx." He insists that the NPA is largely self-sufficient, acquiring most of its weapons from the armed forces, but receiving some financial aid from "friendly nations". The NPA is at the start of a three-year build-up of military pressure in the south.

At any one time there are thought to be about 7,500 guerrillas under arms throughout the country, about 1,300 of them in Mindanao.

Support for them is often through fear. They have to live off the people, even collecting their own taxes, and can offer little except some hope for the peasants that one day things will get better. The guerrillas seldom last more than five years; then either disease or a bullet gets them. That has not deterred dozens of well-educated university graduates from joining their ranks.

In Mindanao, the communists do not have to search for rallying issues: most are created for them by low wages and government policies which force more and more peasants off their lands in favour of agribusiness interests.

The military tackles the war as though Vietnam had never been. Thousands of peasants have been moved from their farms to "strategic" villages in the hope that this will deprive the NPA of support and protect the people. The villagers hate the military for it. Anyone who does not agree to the transfer is branded as an NPA supporter and his house is burned down.

The farmers, used to plenty of space, now find themselves jammed next to their neighbours, their rudimentary hygiene spreading disease in such a close community. In one hamlet 200 children died of disease in a week. Farmers must walk miles to their plots in the morning and return before the curfew at dusk.

In other areas in south-east Mindanao, land covered by the big corporations has recently seen a big increase in military operations. The soldiers are there ostensibly to protect plantations and other investments from the NPA. But to many it looks as though the army is intent on clearing out the people to enable mining or timber companies, under presidential powers, to take over the land. The landless become potential recruits for the NPA.

The government persists in trying to tackle fundamental socio-economic problems through military means, and the military, judging by recent operations in the north of the island, is intent on treating the people as guilty of being NPA sympathisers until proved innocent.

In one recent sweep through three hamlets, the army so terrorized the population that 200 families fled. Hearts and minds will never be salvaged this way.

Tomorrow: The Government's relationship with the Roman Catholic Church.

Gerald Kaufman

Caught in the Act of giving grants

Quite rightly, Sir Donald Kaberry, the chairman of House of Commons Standing Committee D, told me that I was out of order in seeking to pursue a constitutional point while we were debating the sittings motion. This motion simply authorizes the committee to meet at 10.30 am on Tuesdays and Thursdays. However, while MPs were discussing it, we stumbled into a major matter of substance whose implications are much more substantial than the scope of the legislation under consideration.

The Local Authorities (Expenditure - Powers) Bill is, by any standards, a minor measure. Forty-one lines long and consisting of two clauses, it aims simply at putting right one of the innumerable mistakes to which the Department of the Environment is victim. The Government has launched an urban development grants programme, aimed at assisting local authorities to promote employment in their areas. Embarrassingly, however, the Secretary of State, Mr. Tom King, discovered that although there was no doubt about his powers to pay the relevant moneys to the local councils, there was considerable doubt about the legality of the councils passing on that money as grants to businesses.

Accordingly, this little Bill was introduced, as Mr King put it, to "clarify" the situation. In the *Lexicon of King's English* which I shall shortly be issuing for general edification, "clarify" will be defined as: "To seek to put right in a hurry legal provisions which are faulty because they themselves were rushed through Parliament without proper consideration."

Sadly, however, it has done no such thing. In fact, after a week of committee debate, the position, far from being clarified, is more confused than ever. Certainly, relevant grants by local authorities will be lawful if made after the Bill is enacted. The trouble is that councils may have made such grants before the Royal Assent is obtained. Sir George Young, the Under-Secretary, told the committee that "the schemes are proceeding" and that they are safe to do so because "the Bill gives cover to local government expenditure in the financial year 1983-84".

Unfortunately, no Bill can give cover to anything. Only an Act can do that; and this Bill will not become an Act until the middle of next month at earliest. Six weeks of the financial year will have elapsed, in which time the schemes will have proceeded - but without the protection of the indemnifying Act.

When the Under-Secretary was asked what he intended to do about

that problem, he soothingly assured us that, really, nobody needed to worry at all. Even if there were some doubt about the legality of local authorities' grant-making powers during this penumbral period, the Secretary of State could issue a certificate which would remove the ability of the district auditor to pounce.

Have the councils, then, heaved a sigh of relief and agreed that everything is now all right? Far from it. The auditor is not their only problem. If they have been making payments during the period before the Bill becomes law, they are still liable to legal action by, say, a businessman who is not getting a grant and fears that he may be undermined by a grant-aided competitor; and the Secretary of State has no power to issue a certificate preventing such litigation.

So the local authorities, who asked for this Bill because they felt the previous legislation was defective, now find that their defective legislation, even before it is enacted, may be defective as well. We, as a benevolent and public-spirited Opposition, are seeking to put matters right by tabling amendments to the Bill which, by rendering its provisions retrospective, will provide genuine cover to payments made before enactment. The Government, at last having got this new problem into its thick head, is considering how best to react without being compelled to admit that it has made an even bigger mess of things than usual.

Incompetence by Environment Secretaries in this government is not, however, the constitutional point which Sir Donald most properly prevented me from discussing on the sittings motion. The issue is much more profound than that. In Standing Committee D we are reminding the Government that, in our democracy, no statement by ministers, least of itself the force of law. It is no good the Secretary of State emphatically telling councils that they are secure just because he says they are; they know better. They know their only protection is an Act of Parliament so drafted that it covers every contingency in which they may be at risk.

This may be boring for the Government, even irksome. It is, however, very healthy that a small and unassuming measure such as this can remind ministers that what they say is of no consequence unless they say it. Their words have force only if they are uttered in accordance with statutes endowed with authority by our sovereign Parliament.

The author is Labour MP for Manchester, Ardwick.

Charles McKean

Denmark Hill for the salvation line

Straddling the south-London railway, Denmark Hill station was a glorious 1866 vintage Tuscan palace. As such, it was part of British Rail's inconvenient heritage in a part of London where heritage is not the first concern of the inhabitants.

The first concern - after unemployment, blight and lack of housing - lies just across the road from the station, sternly fronted by the commanding statues of General and Mrs Booth frozen in full flight: it is the Salvation Army training headquarters. The second concern is King's College Hospital and the Maudsley, spreading inexorably like a tumour through this part of the metropolis. The third is Nunhead cemetery, a few moments along the line.

In the early 1970s, Denmark Hill station retained considerable vestiges of its former glory. The booking hall was a veritable palace; there was fine ironwork, brickwork, glazed arcades, a good booking office, a stationer's shop, a grand, long-case clock, and some original timber lattice work. Little by little, British Rail let it go. The clock stopped, and then, vanished; the stationers closed; the timberwork remained unpainted and rotted; some was sawn off; broken windows were sealed with hardboard; rubbish collected on the embankment, and puddles on the platform.

Day by day commuters witnessed the accelerating consequences of neglect. By 1976, the station's condition had reached such a state that it was selected to represent London in the national *Fidelfit* competition organized by *The Architect* magazine (now defunct).

One entry, by Tom Justice, extrapolated from the hill-palace nature of the station, and proposed statues, a fountain, cypress trees, pedimented station signs, and a painted, Sistine-chapel roof beneath the road bridge which passes over the platform - all at least two years before such ideas became accepted as mainstream post modernism (and he only meant it as a *jeu d'esprit*).

Despite considerable public interest, there was no response from British Rail. They had relegated Denmark Hill to eventual replacement by the steel and glass boxes that pass for stations in Maze Hill and Streatham.

Indeed, the underlying policy had been clearly stated by the then Southern Region general manager: his contribution to *Railway Stations of the Southern Region* - "the complete reconstruction with modern methods and materials is the only way to get rid of a picture of an outdated form of transport in the public's mind".

A godsend for British Rail arrived one night in March 1980 when an arsonist burnt out the roof of the booking hall. Enter British Rail, hastily, with gangs of workmen to make things safe and by doing so, demolishing far more than the arsonist, destroying spectacular

carved stonework and patterned brickwork, and the upper parts of the walls. The rump was sealed off, clearly destined for a journey to the goods yard in the sky.

The Camberwell Society, on being told by a BR public relations spokesman that they should, instead of complaining, "put their money where their mouths are" to pay for the difference between a modest station and the restoration of the old, promenade the streets collecting money.

They opened an appeal which raised £4,000 from local people. Jeremy Bennett, the society's chairman, aided by Jack Jones (former TGWU general secretary) and Terry Jones (former Monty Python) then headed the quest for over the Southwark Environment Trust, which would become the agent for further restoration, together with the cheque for £4,000 duly blessed by Sir John Benjamin.

Enter Sir Peter Parker, with an environmental panel from BR. Perhaps the local initiative could extricate BR, quite literally, from a hole, by taking on responsibility for the station building. Negotiations took a year, at the end of which the Southwark Environment Trust had an option of a 40-year lease on the building, a beneficial occupier, and an interesting pattern of financial contributions: £34,000 raised by itself through collections and private charities; £56,000 from the Historic Buildings Council for the restoration of a listed building; £20,000 from the GLC; and a grant from British Rail to match the total pound for pound (probably still cheaper for BR than the costs of demolition and rebuilding).

The proposed use for the building is a real ale pub with beer brewed on the premises. The locals are enthusiastic since the building is being restored with a community use.

Most importantly, the fabulous ground work undertaken by the Camberwell Society should make it easier for similar organizations to do the same elsewhere. For once British Rail had grasped the concept of leasing out, its staff proved particularly helpful. On the other hand, not every community is blessed with former trade union general secretaries or Monty Python, so they will have to rely on this case as a precedent.

Unfortunately, not every station building for which British Rail has little affection can be so easily isolated and re-used. On Saturday the Civic Trust presented the Camberwell Society with its *Pride of Place* commendation for their efforts to save the station, at a ceremony - complete with real ale - in the station booking hall. Bows began the restoration work. It could be the start of a new era for our railway heritage.

Architecture Correspondent



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FIRMNESS PAYS AT COWLEY

The return of industrial strife to the Cowley factory of British Leyland was taken in many quarters as the most convincing evidence yet that the economy was truly on the mend. Within weeks of the company launching a car with great sales potential, the Maestro, and being for the first time in some years in a position to promise its workers not retrenchment and cutbacks, but production bonuses and secure jobs, 5,000 of that same workforce went on strike and brought the plant to a standstill.

Four weeks later the two aspects of the dispute which stand out most are its apparent triviality, and the obvious bitterness and resentment that many of the strikers feel towards BL.

Now, with the prospects of a return to work brighter than at any time since the strike began, thanks to a night of hard bargaining between the management and the leaders of the two main unions involved, Mr Terry Duffy of the engineers and Mr Moss Evans of the Transport and General Workers, the question is whether that bitterness will force a continuation of the strike, or whether the proposed settlement will allow more normal industrial relations procedures to reassert themselves.

But first, how does the settlement deal with the seemingly trivial issue which provoked the strike - the desire by the management to make all its employees work "bell to bell" and so to abolish the established practice whereby they all clocked

off a few minutes early at the end of each shift?

Here the company has gained a victory. It seems to have persuaded the union leaders that it is not going to withdraw its demand, that all its employees must work for the full time for which they are paid. So it should be in a position to secure a further increase in output, which on the company's figures is equivalent to a hundred more cars a week, worth an extra £25 million a year. Moreover, the company can fairly claim to have demonstrated its willingness to stand firm and to face a potentially crippling strike at a time when it would have been all too easy for it to return to the practice of the 1960s, when strikes were simply bought off in order to keep the production lines moving. It has therefore given its answer to many who believed that the determination of management to manage would crumble once the unions reasserted themselves and were no longer cowed by the threat of unemployment.

But if this strike at Cowley is a symptom of a much deeper discontent - and this seems to be the case - then dealing with the symptom cannot count as a total victory, unless there is a parallel attack on the basic disease.

Here too there appears to have been a change, a concession by management which, though outwardly not significant, is enough of a breakthrough for the union leaders to feel that they

too have some honour from the proposed peace. What management has agreed to is the creation of a joint committee which will examine the state of industrial relations in the plant with the specific purpose of finding out what has gone wrong at the plant. This should be in a position to provide the key for a less autocratic style of management - a shift away from the take it or leave it approach, personified by Sir Michael Edwards, in favour of consultation and agreement.

Whether or not this is desirable depends on whether both sides can be trusted. Management must not use it as an excuse for weakness; unions must refrain from being mindlessly obstructive. And it has to be said that the precedents on both sides have not always been encouraging.

That said, it is surely in the interests of both sides to try to move forward along this path so that the resolution of this conflict does not merely fertilize the seeds of the next one. Management seems to understand this, as indeed do the trade union leaders. They still have to persuade the shop stewards and the strikers themselves. But if the shop floor does indeed want job security coupled with a greater degree of harmony than existed before, then the settlement holds out that promise - provided both sides are prepared to work at it. On that basis the men should accept the settlement, and they probably will.

SOUTHERN EUROPE TURNS PALE PINK

April 25 in Lisbon: the day of the red carnations, when the young officers of the Armed Forces Movement overthrew the half-century-old dictatorship, opening the way to independence for Portugal's African colonies and to democracy for Portugal itself. How long ago that seems. Today is in fact the ninth anniversary and the Portuguese are voting again, but the novelty and excitement of it have long since worn off.

Democracy is not mainly to blame for economic troubles which Portugal shares with the rest of the world. But elected governments have not been notably successful in managing those troubles. The expected victory of Dr Mario Soares's Socialist party in today's poll will not, if it is confirmed, be a sign of renewed confidence in proposals for social betterment through democratic change. The electorate will be calling back to power a man and a party who have failed before (in 1976-78), for little better reason than that things have now got even worse under their opponents.

The Democratic Alliance, in power since 1979, has been steadily disintegrating since the tragic death of its leader, Dr Francisco Sá Carneiro, in the air crash of December 4, 1980. Its

situation has been compared to that of Spain's Centre Democratic Union which collapsed last year while still in office, and was kept alive on a kind of political respirator just long enough for Señor González's Socialists to win the election. Both were governments of the centre-right which had responded well enough to the political requirements of a particular moment in their country's history, but possessed neither a coherent ideology nor an organized base in the country. Both lost all cohesion and credibility once separated from their founder-leader (in the Spanish case Señor Adolfo Suárez who was forced to resign in 1981).

There are differences, though. In Spain the UCD had governed continuously since the first post-Franco elections. The Socialists were a new, untried force, still carrying with them a great many hopes for change even though they were careful to campaign on a very moderate programme. Also, Spain's weighted system of proportional representation made it relatively easy for them to win an overall parliamentary majority. Dr Soares in Portugal has little hope of achieving that, and has said that even if he did he would prefer not to govern alone. His electoral platform consists almost entirely of warn-

ings about the gravity of the country's economic position and the years of austerity that lie ahead.

The most probable outcome seems to be a centre coalition led by the Socialists and joined as junior partner by the Social Democrats, the leading party in the outgoing Government. But the Social Democrats are in such disarray that it may take them a month or more to decide whether to join such a coalition and, if so, under what leader. The election, in short, may well solve very little.

The same is true of the early general election which the Italian Socialists seem intent on forcing in their country, despite the opposition of their own elected statesman, President Pertini. Their leader, Signor Bettino Craxi, has pronounced a death sentence on the Government of Signor Fanfani, which is less than five months old, without saying clearly either what is wrong with it or with what kind of government he would like to replace it. He hopes, evidently, to benefit from the tide that has brought gains to Socialist parties throughout Southern Europe - ironically at a time when the French Socialist Government, which started the trend, is already floundering in grave economic difficulties.

A BLEAK ANNIVERSARY

Soviet plans to enforce "celebration" parades in Kabul on Wednesday to mark the revolution five years ago which installed a pro-Soviet Marxist regime are threatened by Afghan insurgents. The occupation forces in Afghanistan have again been reinforced and are now striking at insurgent positions in regions around Herat in the north-west. Heavy fighting is also reported near the Afghan-Soviet frontier, and earlier this month three guerrilla factions, formerly bitter rivals unable to cooperate, joined forces to ambush a Soviet military convoy. The cost to the USSR in casualties and resources is growing.

But despite the involvement of the United Nations Organization in the quest for a political solution, there is no indication that Mr Andropov wishes to reverse the policy of his predecessor. For all the opprobrium of world public opinion, the USSR now has troops only a few hundred miles from the Indian Ocean, and is in a strong position to influence the course of events in neighbouring Iran and Pakistan at a time of internal crisis.

Five years of leftist and Marxist-Leninist rule might have brought some progress to backward Afghanistan. The coup d'état which overthrew President Daud on April 27, 1978 installed a coalition government opposed to "feudalism". It banned forced

marriages - and any marriage of a girl not yet sixteen. The crushing debts of the poorest peasants were cancelled, and usury was abolished. Much-needed agrarian reforms were promised.

Within months the Khalq party ousted its Parcham rivals and took sole control. Attempts at progressive reforms continued, with women gaining full legal rights, for example. But trying to implement agrarian reform by crude restrictions on individual land holdings showed a complete lack of understanding for the complexities of Afghan peasant farming. The population was further alienated from the regime by the thousands of Soviet "advisers" in Afghanistan, with their colonialist attitudes and determination to install the same Soviet "civilization" enforced in the 1920s in the neighbouring Muslim lands of the USSR.

The "white man's burden" was an acceptable attitude for many enlightened people in the last century, but even then the Russian Empire was not an attractive example of imperialism. The present Soviet version would be particularly repugnant to a devout Muslim country, even if it were not being imposed by force of arms. The thousands of casualties inflicted during operations against the insurgents and in atrocities against village populations have instilled in Afghans a hostility against the USSR which will live for

generations even after the fighting stops.

The Soviet invasion of December 1979 certainly ensured that the Kabul regime would remain an obedient Soviet puppet. But it could not put an end to the vicious factional strife among the Afghan Marxist-Leninists, and it certainly guaranteed that in the minds of most Afghans the regime was damned as the mouthpiece of a hated alien invader. Material progress for the population is clearly impossible while Moscow continues with its colonialist war.

Suggestions that a change of policy would follow when Mr Andropov succeeded Brezhnev have proved premature. There has been a tendency in the West to exaggerate "indications" such as the increased reporting in the generally recalcitrant Soviet press of casualties suffered by Soviet troops in battle with the insurgents. In fact some of the cases recently given prominence in Moscow newspapers were actually the same "heroic deaths" reported months before for propaganda reasons in the local Soviet press.

The governments of the West and the non-aligned countries must redouble their efforts to persuade the Soviet leaders that much more is to be gained by withdrawing their forces than by reinforcing them. No doubt Mr Malolom Rifkind will be stressing this message on behalf of Britain in Moscow today at the beginning of his official visit.

Motive for attending Prague conference

From the Chairman of the National Peace Council

Sir, Your leader, "The peace of Prague" (April 21), was unworthy and a confirmation that disagreement on important issues has given way to enmity of spirit which vitiates mutual understanding and 'conciliation. I do not refer to your remarks on the World Peace Council but to those directed at "people concerned with day to day management of the CND", one of our member organizations.

To assume malign intent or manipulative wizardry is somewhat presumptuous (although hand-wagon-jumping is not unknown) and by their own words, whose political preferences do not compass an urgent or constructive approach to disarmament issues.

A phenomenon like CND might be expected to provoke curiosity and sober analysis rather than denunciation, but even quite reputable critics such as the Bow Group, have failed to see the openness of the peace movement to get hold of the real facts, on which credible opinion should be based.

For anyone who knows people like Joan Ruddock or Bruce Kent, or who has witnessed the dedicated energy of their colleagues, the insinuations and attacks on their integrity are incomprehensible and deeply disillusioning. They serve a popular and growing movement which is not susceptible to manipulation or anything resembling the discipline with the political parties.

The peace movement is not interested in "one-sided disarmament". It is interested in initiatives which would start the disarmament process moving after 35 years of fruitless multilateral negotiations. Joan Ruddock surely has a point when she criticizes the Government's record. Certainly international tension and conflict has not noticeably diminished and armaments have increased in both numbers and sophistication throughout the world without cease since 1950.

Had we been invited we would have given serious consideration to sending an observer to Prague as we did to the World Peace Council conference in Warsaw in 1977. This would have been in the context of having a more vigorous presence at the European Nuclear Disarmament conference in Berlin next month which has drawn vitriolic condemnation from the Soviet Peace Committee.

This body, like so many commentators here, has failed to comprehend the nature of the non-aligned and independent peace movement and its concern for harassed counterparts in Eastern Europe. But if politicians from opposing parties have to collaborate to make our system work, and if governments with diametrically opposed philosophies striving towards military superiority can still maintain diplomatic links and jointly run international agencies, who is to suggest

that it is improper or worse for non-governmental organizations to seek contact with and information from the peoples and institutions who share our common interest in averting nuclear war?

Peace is too important to be left to only governments. Official peace committees and the World Peace Council being what they are, those who go to Prague should be capable of distinguishing between government-inspired messages and the fruits of dialogue with real people. There are also some harsh truths which need transmission. Not to try would be irresponsible.

Yours faithfully,
TONY SMYTHE, Chairman,
National Peace Council,
29 Great James Street, WC1,
April 22.

From Mr Ray Whitney, MP for Wycombe (Conservative)

Sir, Bruce Kent is quick to protest (April 22) that the issue of CND's attendance at the World Peace Council's forthcoming jamboree in Prague is not quite as simple as it was made out to be in your leading article of April 21.

I fear it is. Mr Kent's own approach, which is dangerously simplistic, justifies cooperation with Moscow's "peace" apparatus on the grounds that CND supports organisations disliked by the Russians. So what? He himself presumably supports the Roman Catholic Church and parliamentary democracy, both disliked in Moscow.

Hence his special value on a communist platform decked out with every non-communist banner that Moscow can muster.

Even if Mr Kent cannot understand what a scoop his presence in Prague will represent for the WPC, I am sure it was a point fully appreciated by the hard left which now has such a significant presence within the mysterious inner councils of CND.

Certainly Mr Kent is right to emphasise that we must continue to try to communicate with the Soviet Union. But his colleagues should understand that the World Peace Council is an instrument of one-way propaganda rather than two-way communication. Together with a group of parliamentary colleagues, I attempted yesterday to communicate with the Soviet delegation now in London to participate in the Anglo-Soviet round table discussions.

The very hard line taken by Academician Tikhvinski and his team would surely have convinced all but the most starry-eyed or purblind CND supporter that peace can only be preserved by serious and responsible negotiation rather than by participation in Soviet propaganda fests and one-sided Western disarmament.

Sincerely,
RAY WHITNEY,
House of Commons,
April 22.

Thieves abroad

From Frau Reinhard Marks

Sir, A note of warning should be sounded not only to Britons planning to visit Seville (letter, April 16) but also to diplomats having to live in London. The town seems infested with thieves, who prey on foreigners.

On April 9, when I returned from a visit to the local library in the afternoon, thieves had visited our small, fully furnished, fully serviced flat in London, SW1. The doors were locked as I had left them and there seemed to be complete knowledge of where to find things.

All my jewellery, was stolen, my money, my diplomatic passport, my bank cheques and savings book, my luggage keys, my alarm clock, crocodile handbag, cassette recorder

Trade with Japan

From Mr James Y. Bourlet

Sir, In dealing with Japan, British interests differ greatly from those of other EEC members.

Primarily, this arises because Britain's "comparative advantage" lies in "invisibles", whilst that of Germany and the other members lies in manufactures. Strong "invisible" exports from Britain to Japan result in an overall surplus on current account, year after year - in 1981 nearly \$2bn. Other leading Commonwealth countries, though for different reasons, also run surpluses with Japan - Canada nearly three quarters of a billion dollars in 1981 and Australia/New Zealand a similar sum.

In contrast, the rest of the EEC runs heavy deficits - in particular, Germany, which Bundesbank figures showed had a current account deficit with Japan in 1981 of \$53bn.

The EEC Commission stance here in Tokyo is to emphasize visible trade deficits (arguing for Japanese export restraints, higher prices in Europe and increased penetration for manufactures into Japan) and completely ignore "invisibles". Correspondingly, one can observe a major campaign by German exporting companies in Japan - everywhere one now sees BMWs, Mercedes and VWs - and German wine is available in all "off licences". German exports to Japan increased dramatically during 1982.

One result of this is that German-Japanese industrial links are being greatly strengthened; witness the rapidly increasing direct investment by Japanese companies in Germany and the dramatic fall in the proportion of Japanese-EEC investment coming to Britain - down to only 12 per cent in 1982. Another result is that Japan will take steps to reduce "invisible" imports, perhaps by deliberately "assisting" shipping and insurance, etc.

Britain must state her own requirements independently in Tokyo. The Japanese are perfectly willing to oblige (as they did in limiting car shipments) and "bar-

gaining weight" by the EEC is laughably irrelevant.

For British ministers to leave such trade negotiations in the hands of the EEC, resulting in wrong policy decisions (for example over video cassette recorders) suggests a disinterest in British interests bordering on negligence!

Yours faithfully,
JAMES Y. BOURLET,
Faculty of Commerce,
15-45 Mita 2-chome,
Minato-ku,
Tokyo 108,
Japan,
April 8.

From the Director of the Anglo-Japanese Economic Institute

Sir, Mr Norman MacLeod's letter (March 16) on the United Kingdom's invisibles surplus with Japan reminds me that the British side has never seen eye to eye with the Japanese on this subject. This institute tried in vain for years to secure British figures to set against those produced annually by the Bank of Japan, so we always published the Japanese version and the British went by default.

Eventually the United Kingdom side talked of "differences in the ways Japan and the United Kingdom collect and assess their statistics" and gave figures falling far short of the Japanese estimates; and now Mr MacLeod says Japan's method "greatly exaggerates the surplus".

But the Bank of Japan's details - like Britain's, I presume, and other nations' - are compiled in accordance with the International Monetary Fund's Balance of Payments Manual. The British Committee on Invisible Exports, in surveying world invisible trade, seems perfectly happy to quote IMF sources in relation to Japan and Britain.

I do hope Japanese experts won't start calling British figures "greatly exaggerated" or "misleading". Yours faithfully,
REGINALD CUDLIFF, Director,
Anglo-Japanese Economic Institute,
342/6 Grand Buildings,
Trafford Square, WC2,
April 7.

With all cassettes, radio, wedding ring and my husband's silver Parker pen. He visited a sauna that fateful afternoon. Nothing was searched or gone through!

Having been round the world over the past 27 years I had to come to the freest, most civilised country in the world to have this revolting and deeply hurtful experience.

Feeling absolutely frightened and insecure my stay in London, to which I had looked forward with great joy and expectation, has been spoiled. The police, just like the police in Seville, seem powerless to control and stop the thieves which are round and about London town.

Sincerely,
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THE ARTS

Donald Pleasence, long the odd man out among our leading actors, tomorrow appears as Dr Johnson in BBC1's controversial *The Falklands Factor*. Interview by Bryan Appleyard

The personification of uncommonness

Donald Pleasence gazed into the pale spring light of Albermarle Street, a hint of madness in his eyes. Suddenly the bald head swivelled clamour-like in response to the movement of a waiter in a far corner of the room. The poor minion scuttled away.

Most of this did not happen. It should have done but it did not. Pleasence in the flesh is not at all sinister, displays very few signs of madness and only swivels at the request of the photographer. Indeed he is evidently a little impatient with the very word "sinister". "I'm a kind of lovable figure really. I'm loved by my fans. When men stop me in the street for my autograph it's always for their wives, who must be about 50."

But, whether he likes it or not, the latter half of Pleasence's career has been marked by sinister roles, odd characters and, failing that, people under pressure to the point of madness. Nothing could have more completely made the point than the television ads for Pills - "the odd lagger".

It was not ever thus. In the late Fifties he was everybody's idea of the common man, a role he played month after month in the live television dramas of the time. Happily he recalls those interminable travelling salesmen and the days when directors used to cry "Let's get Pleasence for the ordinary bloke!"

But even as he bankers after the commonplace he exposes his an-

archic streak. "Actors have much more control in live television. Millions of people watching and you can do anything. I used to have this fantasy that I would go home in the middle of a play and turn on my set to watch my next entrance - I knew that nobody was going to come on." He unleashes his wheezy chuckle, his most characteristic sound apart from the sudden, unnerving swoop into a whisper which punctuates his conversation.

But, after the dramas, came the television series *Armchair Mystery Theatre* of which he was host and occasional star. The public attached the name to the face and the face to an air of mystery, to a sense that something rather strange was going on. But it could not simply have been the effect of casting. At the age of 18 Pleasence left his first job as a bookkeeping clerk at Swinton Station in Yorkshire - "my parents had influence". He told the station master he was off to become an actor. Finding this very odd the railway company sent in a high-powered auditor to discover if he had been selling bogus first-class tickets and was attempting to abscond with the proceeds. The label "odd" was stuck on early.

Labelled or not, he is now an eminently bankable property. Stage parts appear to be available whenever he wants them; and he travels continually to play in a steady flow of



Pleasence: "I'm a kind of lovable figure really. I'm loved by middle-aged women. They're my fans..."

films. Now he is in Mexico working on *Frankenstein's Great Aunt Tilly*.

"I only make odd films, that's the point. If they made interesting films then I would appear in interesting films. But the fact is that only horror movies are made at the moment. This at least is a funny horror film. I'm quite looking forward to it." With a little prompting he drifts into a happy reminiscence about *Colditz*, the Roman Polanski film in which he portrays a nice guy driven mad by his wife and friends.

"I was watching a couple of films I'd rented from the video shop round the corner, and I thought films have got so complicated. They're all shot like commercials - your nose, your glasses and so on. And I thought how wonderful to see a film like *Colditz*. The essence of that film is what

you read into it, not what the director puts into it by way of fancy cutting. It was a straightforward film in the sense that it could have happened - like *Waiting for Godot*. The weirdest things are those which bear a resemblance to the truth."

The Falklands Factor - Don Shaw's play to be shown on BBC 1 tomorrow - bears a very close resemblance to one truth and a slightly more distant similarity to another. The first is the invasion of the Falklands by the Spanish in 1770 and the second is the invasion by the Argentines in 1982. The BBC is running it as a *Play for Today*, the first historical drama to appear in the slot. Pleasence plays Dr Samuel Johnson, who was persuaded by the Prime Minister, Lord North, to write a pamphlet against war with Spain.

Johnson at the time was struggling with poverty and the fear of madness, not to mention a vigorous hatred of the pro-war writer Junius, the scribe Who Supported Our Boys.

"I think it's very important to remember that when Johnson was doing the pamphlet on the Falklands he thought himself to be on the verge of insanity. It was a genuine fear so far as I can tell from the books I've read..." - he swoops into the whisper - "...but how do you know about history? He didn't have any money, never had any money, just worried all the time about what was his place in the world and whether he'd made a terrible mistake."

Pleasence's thoughts on the great Doctor have produced a performance which is startlingly at odds with the

Television
Ill-starred scenario

James Galway's *Music in Time* is the title of a good popular introduction to music published jointly by Mitchell Beazley and Channel 4. On the cover, in smaller type, it says "written by William Mann". In coffee-table television spin-offs the real author counts for less than the star who lends his glittering name.

Music in Time the series (Channel 4) is a big international co-production for which Mann acts as "music consultant". Someone else contributes a "scenario", and Galway pops out like a jack-in-the-box to add what the handout calls his "infectious enthusiasm" to the proceedings. Yesterday, while the cameras ranged over choristers, candles, carvings, crucifixes and more choristers (the scenario?), Galway piped up with little remarks designed to prove that medieval music is not really frightening at all. One wished he would either pipe down, or else get his own pipe out and play it. The musical juxtapositions were indeed interesting but what this eye-glazing programme desperately needed was some of that genuinely infectious enthusiasm which Mann brings to the book. But that, alas, would not have been permitted by the scenario.

I have not yet caught up with Jane Glover's *Orchestra*, which BBC1 are running at roughly the same time, but I have not missed a minute of BBC2's riveting series *Alfred Brendel Masterclasses*. "The pedal markings Beethoven wrote are not there for nothing. Whoever ignores them is committing a crime," said the guru apropos a noted trouble-spot in the "Tempest" Sonata. "If you feel something you shouldn't interfere by knowing it." The tuneless growl and almost spastic facial expressions with which he accompanies his own playing somehow reinforce the impression that he is right in there among the mysteries.

In *Wise Man and the Wheel* (Channel 4) James Bellini delivered a new blow to the portly person of Richard Attenborough by suggesting that his emaciated hero was not so much a revolutionary as a misguided Victorian eccentric. The programme, which dwelt at length among the dispossessed poor, based its simple but devastating case on the fact that Gandhi's most enduring legacy has been a cruelly efficient system of capitalist exploitation.

The textile workers of Bombay have been on strike for over a year, and have even been joined by the police in demonstrating for higher wages. Violence, said Bellini with pugnacious glee, was now a real possibility. Underedited and overlong, this programme was none the less a timely reply to all those Oscars.

When even *Radio Times* pokes fun at the Eurovision Song Contest (BBC1) it behoves the rest of us to fall silent. "Vivrel!" sang the French contestant, heaving over his keyboard. "Vivrel! Encore un réveil!" "Do me la so la si do!" sang the Norwegian, determined not to rest on the laurels they had won two years previously by scoring zero points. The surprise was that the winner, a torch singer from Luxembourg, really could sing. Terry Wogan officiated with his customary blend of derision and reverence.

The opening edition of *The Late Clive James* (Channel 4) was, as Dennis Hackett observed last week, duff beyond belief. Nice to see that the round maestro has not pulled his finger out. Saturday's show was well up to standard.

Michael Church

coffee-table book image of the portly mandarin of Eng. Lit. There are still the perfectly turned sentences but they are delivered as from the depths of a vastly depressed soul. The Pleasence whisper is used to elaborate the effect of a man drifting back and forth from the here and now. Small wonder that he gets so few common man parts when he does the uncommon ones so uncommonly well.

But it all leaves him with a slightly maverick image, as if all this oddness somehow puts him outside the scope of the term "distinguished actor". And "maverick" is certainly a term he earns to a good deal more than "sinister".

"Yes, I think so. I don't like establishment people who know what they're doing or... I must be precise about this... I think everything changes from day to day and I can't see myself as a precise figure, as somebody who always knows what is right and what is wrong... I don't. I don't know what is going to happen tomorrow" (whispers) "The world is full of people who know exactly what's going to happen tomorrow, which seems to me to be a pity..."

He drifts off into thought but turns abruptly back into the alert professional when the photographer asks him to pose. Obediently he turns up his collar and gazes out into the pale spring light of Albermarle Street, a hint of madness in his eyes...

Dance

Oasis of sensitivity

Contemporary
Ballets
Paris Opéra/
Théâtre de la Ville

The big hit with most of the public in the Soirée de Ballets Contemporains at the Paris Opéra was Armitage's *Bord du précipice*, about the destruction of a pop-star musician through adulation, sex and drugs. Across town at the Théâtre de la Ville, Karole Armitage has been astonishing audiences of the Opéra Ballet's Experimental Group (GRGOC) not only by the violent energy of her dancing but by the rock-concert volume of her music.

But first, something completely different and no less original. The other creation in the programme at the Opéra itself was a work lasting half an hour for only two dancers and a pianist. The music is eight of the 12 Etudes for piano by Debussy, excellently played by Georges Fludermacher. The choreographer is Andrew de Groat, who first won attention with his work for Robert Wilson's "operas" but lately has made ballets as a freelance and for his own group.

The dancers were Wilfride Piolet and Jean Guizex, husband and wife stars of the Opéra, who have long been interested in using their prodigious classical technique for contemporary ends. De Groat says he has tried to make the work an equal collaboration of dancers, choreography and music: there are set and free passages, and the relation of dance to music is different in each Etude.

Nouvelle Lune starts with solos, gradually building a relationship between the two dancers that makes the most of their remarkable rapport, so that communication sometimes occurs right across the huge stage, and they even seem mutually aware without needing to be able to see the other. A décor (by de Groat) of deliberately artificial-looking plastic clouds is brought into the action, descending and rising again; two doves also take part as one moment.

The action is an extraordinary mixture of natural movement and ballet technique, building on Piolet's strong feet and Guizex's powerful jump, also the remarkable control that enables both to accomplish the most delicate gradations of effect, as subtle and varied as the music. Physically, to sustain such movement so long and accurately is a tour de force, but equally impressive is the emotional quality they convey.

This work was an oasis of quiet, sensitive and absolutely gripping artistry between Glen Tetley's highly rhetorical *Voluntaries*, which began the bill, and Alley's new work that ended it. Perhaps it is not surprising that some people left the theatre at the intermission while others were only just arriving (it was there the day after the premiere, and word-of-mouth spreads quickly).

Au Bord du précipice is a wild extravaganza that never lets up for a moment. The character called simply He has an opening solo in a white suit (the jacket worn open to reveal a bare chest), then changed to black leather. His wife, his desire and drugs are all represented by She in a series of increasingly revealing nights, sometimes

worn with a huge cloak or strands of scarlet ribbons trailing behind. After the opening, He is scarcely ever alone; fans, pushers and a host of other attendants flock the stage.

The music, a mixture of modern styles in a recording ("As falls Wichita, so falls Wichita Falls") by Pat Metheny and Lyle Mays, is restless, with an edgy pulse, but there is something *déjà vu* about the whole piece, its evocation of the Sordid Sixties rather empty and obvious. The energy and glaucoma of the dancers explains the popular enthusiasm, especially for Patrick Dupond, infinitely knowing and blatant as He (Charles Jude, in another cast, lacks confidence in his own hip-wriggling), and Eric Vu-An as the rising star who endorses him in the hectic finale - definitely a name to watch.

Karole Armitage puts her high-voltage energy to a far more contemporary purpose both in *Massacre on MacDougal Street*, which she staged for a French cast, and in *The Last Gone Dance*, for herself and Michael Clark as guests on one of the GRGOC programmes. Compared with her pieces, the contributions by the group's own choreographers (Jacques Garnier, Magny Marin, Ollysses Dove and Carolyn Carlson in the two shows I saw) are insipid, often starting with a good concept, but not backing it with enough movement invention to hold the interest.

The title *Massacre on MacDougal Street* hints at a respect for Balanchine - Armitage used to dance his ballets in Geneva before coming via Merce Cunningham to her present independent style. Her other piece at the Théâtre de la Ville even uses elements of rather formal *pas de deux* partnering at times, although always with a new angle, and there is nothing formal about the relationship between her and Clark, which is displayed as fiercely aggressive.

Dressed by Charles Atlas in outrageous mixtures of colour, shape and pattern, with frequent changes of clothes, footwear and even wigs, Armitage and her dancers in both works convey the sort of self-contained disregard and assurance one sees in many of today's young people. The contained quality of it is important in the result: what everyone notices in Armitage's choreography is its forcefulness, but that makes its effect partly by contrast with a cool, wary stillness, especially in her own performances.

Massacre is danced to recorded music of Rhys Chatham, with whom she worked in her *Drastic Classicism*. For *The Last Gone Dance* Armitage has the composer David Linton on stage, playing a gleaming collection of percussion in duet with pre-recorded tapes. Although the idiom is entirely different, the relationship of musician and two dancers is as intense as in *Nouvelle Lune* at the Opéra.

Perhaps somebody should try putting the two works in tandem on one programme. Although outwardly contrasted, they have a lot in common, chiefly the serious use of a scrupulously polished technique to accomplish something new that develops rather than that disintegrates tradition. Novelty alone, like patriotism, is not enough; amid a rush of novelties, Armitage and de Groat offer something more.

John Percival

Antony and
Cleopatra
Young Vic

The school parties packing into the Young Vic to see their set book are greeted by a Voytek set of baroque splendour that seems rather to herald a performance of *All for Love*. I hope they will not be put off. Keith Hack's production is as successful a demonstration as I have seen of blending and inventing styles and periods.

A headless heroic statue (just as apt for this hero as for *Lancelotti*) dominates a flight of steps, down which a cascade of crushed and gathered cloth-of-gold spreads from its torso to cover the forestage. Antony's classical breastplate and tan leather trousers (impudently planted with a tily up front) sit comfortably beside the imitation of Veronese in Caesar's and

Enobarbus's military costumes and a featherweight lavender tulle confection for Cleopatra which she could have worn to a first night at Covent Garden.

So much for Pippa Bradshaw's costumes. I am less happy about the actors inside them; the distinguished names here are not at their best, and there is some mighty odd work low down in the order.

Again and again, the impact of a scene or the reading of a line seems to owe most to the director's intelligence, and loses spontaneity. So many qualities in this extraordinary play have to be brought out and belaboured: the sheer stature of the characters, the intimacy and immediacy that expresses itself in some of the most emotionally piercing lines in Shakespeare, the rhetoric alternating with dialogue that constantly flickers with the subtlest bawdy overtones.

RPO/Mennhin
Festival Hall

The "Sold Out" sign was up on Friday night when the RPO's President and Associate Conductor (not to be confused with any of the five other conductors who at present hold titles with this orchestra) made a rare appearance - the name of Yehudi Menuhin draws the crowds whether he is doing what he does best or whether he is conducting. I am not such a spoilsport as to suggest that any concert which involves his musicianship could be less than an exalted experience, and in fact his account of Beethoven's "Pastoral" Symphony was a warm-hearted, enjoyable one.

The RPO's leader did much of the work, translating Menuhin's affectionate gestures into directions which the orchestra could follow. If the conductor never quite seemed

sure whether he was beating in two or four or just encouraging with a generally circular motion, he at least set apt speeds and only a couple of times pulled them about too much; he provided a humane, gentle approach to the work within which the orchestra's competent playing could function.

It follows that this was an entirely unexploratory reading: I still live in hope of a first movement which bounces off the strings and a storm sequence in which cellos and basses can be heard.

The first half included Mozart's Concerto for flute and harp, with Jean-Pierre Rampal and Marisa Robles - the former effervescent, but giving little attention to nuances of intonation (his main finale entry was wildly off-pitch), the latter nervous but determined in her constant figuration. In each movement the soloists paused to include a little confection of

Theatre

There is much more light and shade in this language than most of the cast seem to be aware. The sense of histrionic danger, risking a really big effect (I know schools audiences do not help, sniggering as they do at the sight of a snake), is missing too; and it matters in this play more than most.

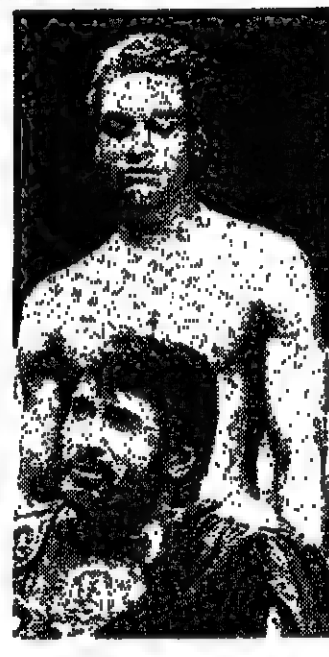
Since I last saw him, Keith Baxter (Antony) has become smartly crop-headed and has acquired a fine throaty sonority, invaluable for this old warrior, as well as a beard like the Ghost's in *Hamlet*, "a sable silvered". He gets away with some splendidly bitch business, swinging his tall Queen of Egypt (Judy Parfitt) into the air for "Here is my space... the nobleness of life is to do thus", and departing from Sextus Pompeius's drinking session hoisting Octavius (Brian Deacon) in one hand and his host in the other. That is fair, at least,

on Jeffery Kisson's Pompeius, who approaches a parody of old-school Old Vic acting.

He is also horribly moving in Antony's first despair: "The land bids me tread no more upon it, it is ashamed to bear me." But the topmost peaks elude him, as they do (just) with Barry Stanton's Enobarbus, however well his tough desecrated manner tells in the more terse, natural exchanges.

Noble profile notwithstanding, Miss Parfitt's grace is firmly European and, so far from reaching for the olive make-up, she takes to a loose gown and sandals more naturally than Glenda Jackson, in un happier circumstances, ever could. Some lovers of the play may miss the dusky Eastern promise and think it necessary: that depends on taste.

Anthony Masters



Keith Baxter's old warrior, with Jeffery Kisson

Concerts

their own (the cadenzas certainly had nothing to do with Mozart). Miss Robles's cadenzas were delightful gasps from the appreciative house, and even Mr Menuhin seemed quite surprised as he headed for the downbeat.

Nicholas Kenyon

Songmakers'
Almanac
Wigmore Hall

I saw only one red rose on Saturday for Shakespeare and St George: "Let us garlands bring" was the generous response from the Songmakers' Almanac in one of their most enriching entertainments.

The obvious, in the form of a superfluity of sounds and sweet airs, was avoided, as was, generally speaking, the coy and

the didactic. Instead we had six artfully planned acts, with Prologue (Dankworth's "Conjugal Works") and Epilogue (fairy cavalcade from Tippett and Walford). In between came German, Danish, Scottish, Russian and English, with "A Garland of Fancies" in the middle to enable us to hear Poulenc's and Britten's exquisite settings of "Tell me where is fancy bred". Sarah Walker sang them with fitting tenderness and whimsy.

Compliments were variously paid: from Frank Harris ("If Shakespeare had asked I would have had to submit") to Heine, who felt Shakespeare's only fault lay in being an Englishman. To try to prove the point we had Schubert's "Horch! horch! die Lerch" from Sheila Armstrong, and the *Antony and Cleopatra* "Trinklied" from Peter Savidge.

The biggest compliment perhaps was Graham Johnson's compilation of the Strauss and

Brahms Ophelia songs. Sheila Armstrong, starting with Brahms's "Ophelia", accompanied "How should I your true love know", gave a finely judged portrayal of Ophelia's developing destruction, using tellingly even the weaker parts of her voice. Bertio's "Death of Ophelia" followed from Sarah Walker, with Peter Savidge providing a postscript from Shostakovich in his dark, declamatory setting of Marina Tsvetaeva's "Hercules's Dialogue with his own Conscience".

It was good to be reminded too, in his setting of Sonnet 66, of the historical ubiquity of "Art" made tongue-tied by authority before turning to England, and among others better known, Sarah Walker's perceptive performance of Rubbra's "Take, O take those lips away".

Hilary Finch

Rock

An honesty which pierces romance

Joni Mitchell
Wembley Arena

Joni sings most affectingly to her friends: Betsy, Sharon, Carol. Her observations have the musing, informal tone of letters and conversation, studied with the surprising details which have always lent her songs their special, precise resonance, such as the recent reflection on her friends' children: "We look like our mothers did now/When we were those kids' age".

She has an electric guitar now (a fat-bodied single-cutaway jazz model, to which she has adapted her folk finger style with typical originality) and a Hollywood-slick four-piece backing band. Still, though, the prevailing thrust is of an honesty which consistently pierces and brings down romance on the wing: she wants to be a wild thing, running fast and free, but she is increasingly willing to admit without self-pity to the banal frailties which to some extent hobble every life, be it ever so grand.

Saturday evening's concert followed the path of her most recent album by reveling in the

injection of rock 'n' roll beneath the complicated surfaces of her song structures: her guitarist, Miquel Landau, provided raging post-Hendrix power chords and solos in "You Dream Flat Tires" and "Wild Things Run Fast". Russell Ferrante (keyboards), Larry Klein (bass guitar) and Vince Colaiuta (drums) sewed up a variety of glistering backdrops, taking their cue from her trademark swaying strum and allowing her voice to range freely through wonderful variety of timbre.

Toward the interval, she shuffled the deck: "God Must Be a Boogie Man" from the unsuccessful *Mingus* album, swung on finger-snapping bass and wire brushes on the snare drum; the early "He Played Real Good for Free", still a moving song, was accompanied only by her own piano; "Big Yellow Taxi", in which she rather endearingly muddled up the words, was done folk-club style, alone with her guitar; and she sat at the dulcimer for "A Case of You".

The big set pieces, one in each half, were taken from the underappreciated *Hejira*: first "Song to Sharon", in which her sustained intensity took the whole concert up a gear or two;



later "Refuge of the Roads", interpolates snatches of autobiography in the picaresque and metaphysical modes. Her reworking of Leiber and Stoller's "You're So Square" Baby I Don't Care" lightened the mood; the marvellous "Chinese Cafe", which, so brilliantly

interpolates snatches of "Unchained Melody", brought us back to hushed introspection with the kind of emotional combination-punch she devises better than anyone.

Richard Williams

Capitalization and week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings begin today. Dealings End, May 6. \dagger Contango Day, May 9. Settlement Day, May 16.

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

[illegible]

THE WEEK AHEAD

ICI expected to make £100m for quarter

How good is good? That is the question overhanging ICA's first quarter figures, due on Thursday, after the bullish remarks by Mr John Harvey-Jones, chairman, at last Thursday's annual meeting.

Since they are going to be a "distinct improvement" on any quarter of last year they must be well ahead of the £83m pretax which the group produced in the second quarter of last year, and therefore a vast improvement on £62m made in the first quarter of 1982.

There is less optimism about the final results from S Pearson & Son due tomorrow. The shares have been buoyant recently, much impressed by the Oscar-winning success of *Ghandi* (the Pearson Longman subsidiary owns Goldcrest films).

But it may be that the 1982 results will fall short of the forecast made a year ago when Pearson bought out the minority shareholding in Pearson Longman. At that stage the group was looking for an improvement on the £59.5m it made in 1981, but the market is prepared for a slight shortfall. The *Financial Times* per-

formed particularly well in the first half of the present year, but it is sometime since the paper increased its cover price, and costs have been rising, particularly in newspaper, where exchange movements have worked against British publishers. There are also fears that Longman, the publishing sub-

The biggest imponderable in S Pearson's figures is Doulton's contribution. In the second half of 1981, Doulton added £7.6m to group pretax profit,

ECONOMIC VIEW

Little hope for base rate cut

£500m for the full year, against the depressed 1982 figure of £259m.

More important than the figures themselves will be the market's reaction to them. With the shares up by 15 per cent in a week and a half there is plenty of scope for profit-taking, even after Friday's 10p end-of-the-account drop.

Last week's unexpectedly high public borrowing outcome for 1982-83 has added force to the authorities' concern over what is happening to the money supply. Despite the drop in inflation to a 15-year low, domestic factors do not favour a further reduction in interest rates. Events across the Atlantic

The most interesting sets of figures out this week are the CBI's April Industrial Trends Survey, released tomorrow, and the March trade figures published on Friday.

CBI leaders have already hinted that the April survey will show further improvements in

scrutinized for signs of a continuing import surge as the British economy picks up. City forecasts of the current account in March range from a small deficit to a surplus of up to £400m. Other economic indicators published this week include fourth quarter institutional

Another group whose shares are close to their year's high is Blue Circle, Britain's biggest cement manufacturer which has been on the expansion trail with an agreed £26m bid for Aberthaw Cement and a move

The general impression, however, is that there will be plenty of buyers willing to take the stock in: ICI is still the market bellwether and institutional holders will be expecting other companies, slower to produce their figures, to reflect a similar improvement, and

Although sterling is expected to remain firm in the near future, it would need a significant strengthening to encourage the authorities to cut interest rates and this depends critically

The trade figures in the first two months of this year have, however, been disappointing with a big deficit on the current account instead of the modest surplus the Treasury is predicting for the year as a whole. Friday's figures will be closely

registrations (today); first quarter bricks and cement production (tomorrow); new construction orders for February and the Department of Employment's *Gazette* (Wednesday); and February energy trends and January/February overseas travel and tourism (Thursday).

Blue Circle has had problems with its Mexican associate company, but analysts are looking for 1982 profits of about \$95m.



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STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 688
FT 100: 81.24
FT All Share: 436.04
Bargains: 25,782
Trading Mail USM Index: 182.7Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones
Average: 8,553.12
Hong Kong: Hang Seng Index,
1,006.53
New York: Dow Jones Aver-
age: 1,196.30

(Friday's close).

CURRENCIES

LONDON

Sterling \$1.5455
Index 83.2
DM 3.7875
FF 11.3450
Yen 366.25
Dollar
Index 122.4
DM 2.4475
Gold
\$437.50

NEW YORK

Gold \$438
Sterling \$1.5480
(Friday's close).

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Base rate 10
3 month interbank 10½-10¾
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 9½-9¾
3 month DM 6½-6¾
3 month FF 13½-13¾
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling
Fixed Finance Scheme
Average reference rate for
interest period March 2 to April
5, 1983 inclusive: 10.974 per
cent.

BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY - Interims: S. Lyles, Finance;
Boddy, Interim, A. Caird,
Hammer, Property Investment
and Development Corporation,
Hoskins & Horton, I & J Hyman,
Mita Corporation (AMD), Paterson
Group, Renown Incorporated,
Simon Engineering, Interim
Insurance, Viceroy, Rastros,
Vingata Property Investments.
TOMORROW - Interims: Dunlop
Group, Energy Capital, New
Australia Investments, Safeguard
Australia Investments, Finesse
Interim, Clarke (Holdings), Clive
Discount, EIS Group, English
National Investment Company,
Flight Refuelling, John Menzies,
Pedag Senang Rubber, S. Pearson
& Son, Rush & Tompkins, H.C.
Singh, Solicitors' Law Society,
Society, Tarmac, Turfitt Corporation.
WEDNESDAY - Interims: British
Assets Trust, London Provincial
Shop Centres, North British
Properties, Union Carbide Corpora-
tion (1st gr), Finesse BSG
International, Carports International,
De Vere Hotels, Lillishall Co.,
Marborough Property Holdings,
James Neil, Shilton, Telephone
Rentals, Thomson T-Line Care-
ers.THURSDAY - Interims: Audio
Fidelity, Hawkins & Tipson, Hoover
(gr), ICI (1st gr), Pochin's, Samuel
Properties, S. Simpson, Finesse
Aero Needles Group, Blue Circle
Industries, Booney & Hawkes,
Davies & Newman, Downbrae
Holdings, Farnell Electronics, Francis
Industries, John Lang, Office &
Electronic Machines, Silbright
Holdings, Whistman Reeve Angel,
George Wimpey, Wira & Plastic
Products, Yule Catto & Co.
FRIDAY - Finesse: Henry Boot &
Sons, Sir Joseph Causton & Sons,
Layton, Sons & Co (Holdings),
ICI, Hopkins Holdings, All,
Liberty Group, Long & Hamby,
Pentland Industries, Sunlight Ser-
vice Group.

Sinclair may go public

Sinclair Research and Acorn
Computers could both go public this
year on the back of
staggering growth in the home
computer market, according to
stockbrokers. Henderson
Crosthwaite. The market has
grown from nothing to £90m in
two years and the brokers
expect home computer sales to
grow at 50 per cent compound
until 1985 even though the
United Kingdom now has more
computers per head than any
other nation. However, competi-
tion and lower costs will trim
growth in the value of these
sales to around 33 per cent a
year.PROFITS DOUBLE: Persa-
mon Press, Mr Robert Max-
well's private company which
owns 78 per cent of British
Printing and Communications
Corporation, reported more
than doubled profits from
£14.4m to £29.5m last year.
Excluding BPCC, Persa-
mon improved from £5.7m to £9.7m,
helped by a £2.2m turnaround to
profits of £1.6m on dealings in
government stocks.OPTIMISTIC VIEW: Lord
Aldington, chairman of Sun
Alliance and London Insurance
Group, says the insurance
industry's trading prospects, in
many of its markets continue to
be unsatisfactory. However, in
the annual report today, he says
there are a few signs that more
sensible and responsible views
are prevailing in falling rates of
inflation and in reinsurance
markets.

Sterling 'may rise to \$1.70 this year'

By Our Financial Staff

An early Conservative election victory would give a big boost to sterling and the pound could rise to \$1.70 against the dollar in the second half of this year, according to James Capel, stockbroker.

However, sterling is likely to be subject to bouts of nervousness until the election, the stockbroker says in the latest edition of its *International Bond and Currency Review*.

Its prospects greater stability in the oil market after August and the dollar to be generally weaker later in the year. On this basis, sterling could strengthen to \$1.60 and up to \$1.70 if the Government is returned.

Apart from uncertainties over the election, the months ahead are likely to be nervous, James Capel says the present Opec pricing structure could come under threat up to August because of seasonally weak demand. A \$25 a barrel oil price is possible and this could push sterling down to between \$1.40 and \$1.45.

Thereafter rising inventories and recovery in the world economy should help to underpin the oil market and sterling could rise against a weakening dollar. But its effective exchange rate could still weaken because the traditional hard currencies will benefit more from the dollar's decline, James Capel says.

The brokers are cautious about prospects for British interest rates. They say short-term United States rates are likely to remain stable for a couple of months but a firm pound could still allow another half-point cut in bank base rates to 9.5 per cent before the end of next month.

Capel expects only a slow world recovery by historical standards, with output rising by 3 per cent on average and inflation by about 5 per cent in the main industrialized countries.

Further evidence of recovery in Britain is expected from the Confederation of British Industry, which publishes its April Trends Survey this week. The results are expected to show more companies reporting bigger order books and greater optimism over rising output.

Hammer in \$600,000 salary deal

By Jonathan Davis

Dr Armand Hammer, the American oil magnate and art collector who made his first million more than 50 years ago, has demonstrated yet again that he has no intention of giving up the gentle art of earning money.

Although he is only one month short of his 85th birthday, the good doctor has signed a remarkable employment agreement with his company, Occidental Petroleum, that will guarantee him work and a salary of at least \$600,000 (£390,000) a year until February 1989, when he will be in his 91st year.

After 1989, the agreement will be renewable automatically every year, unless either the company or Dr Hammer gives six-month notice that it is time to end the working partnership.

Hammer: the gentle art of earning money.

If he retires, Dr Hammer will still be entitled to a salary equivalent to half his previous year's income until he dies. It will be index-linked to changes in the Consumer Price Index, but only - a characteristic touch this - if the index goes up, not if it falls.

Dr Hammer has been chairman and chief executive officer of Occidental since 1957, when he bought into the sleepy \$34,000 Californian oil company as a means, so the story goes, of earning some tax write-offs in his retirement by drilling a few dry holes.

This play, as is now well known, proved a spectacular flop, when Occidental discovered oil not only in California, but subsequently also in huge quantities in Libya and the North Sea.

Apart from his other sources of private wealth, Dr Hammer believed to be the only capitalist whose office has signed photographs of both Lenin and Ronald Reagan, reflecting his lifelong devotion to furthering trade with the Soviet Union - owns 1,160,010 shares in Occidental.

At Friday's closing price of 32½, they are worth about £22m.

Midland halts plans for separate personal and company services

Network extension too costly

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Midland Bank has called to a halt its ambitious branch network reorganization, aimed at dividing up the market between personal and corporate customers. The high cost of implementing the strategy has forced a rethink, and plans to extend the reorganization nationwide have been put on ice.

The bank's decision marks an important policy change which could have a significant bearing on how the other big banks decide to adapt their costly branch networks to meet future needs.

Midland has been one of the pioneers among the big clearers in moving towards market segmentation and satellite branching in the United King-

dom. It set up a corporate finance division in 1975 to deal with its biggest corporate customers and since 1978 has been establishing area offices which cater for the needs of business and are surrounded by satellite branches devoted to personal customers.

So far 55 area offices have been established. They handle corporate business for 430 service branches, or about a fifth of the bank's branch network.

Although a few more area offices may be set up on a very selective basis two more will be opened in London this year - the expense involved has deterred Midland from going ahead further except in the big regional centres where cus-

tomers require a high degree of financial sophistication.

Some smaller businesses have also taken against the system and it has taken time for the area offices to justify their cost in terms of attracting new business. There is no intention of putting the policy into reverse, however, and the existing area offices are counted a success.

The other big banks have all been experimenting with similar changes to their branch structure, although on a much smaller scale. Barclays has set up a large branch in Milton Keynes, with a team of experts handling corporate work in the Luton area for about 70 branches and has several other experimental corporate branch-

es. It is also undertaking a major survey of its branch network before deciding how far to continue down this route.

National Westminster also has a pilot scheme, started in Plymouth in 1980 and now extended to several other big towns such as Bradford and Southend, involving a large branch headed by a chief manager which puts the emphasis on corporate business, leaving surrounding branches free to deal with personal customers. Lloyds is also dipping its toe in the water with a similar experiment after abandoning an earlier satellite banking trial 10 years ago.

The huge costs of running the branch network, and the prob-

lem of meeting the different needs of corporate and personal customers, lie behind the moves.

Societies back joint cash-point

Building societies have voted overwhelmingly in favour of a shared cash-dispenser network for customers in a questionnaire from the Building Societies Association and the system could go ahead this year. However, no decision has been taken on whether the societies should set up their own network or join forces with other financial institutions such as the banks.

£35m bid for Key Markets

By Our Financial Staff

An important force in supermarket retailing may be created this week if Safeway, the American stores chain, seals the purchase of Key Markets, a subsidiary of Fitch Lovell.

Reports at the weekend said that agreement had been reached in principle for Safeway to pay around £35m for the 106 Key Markets stores. This would produce a combined group with more than 200 units and annual sales of more than £800m.

Last year, Safeway produced profits of £17m on sales of £500m. Key Markets stores lost money. Although the combined group would still be small compared to, say, Sainsbury, it could be a significant force if Safeway were to raise Key Markets to its level of profitability.

The proposed sale could meet opposition from Linford, the food chain which has in limbo an £82m bid for the entire Fitch Lovell chain. The Monopolies and Mergers Commission has been considering the implications of such a deal. The Commission's report is believed to have gone to Lord Cockfield, Secretary of State for Trade, last week and his decision on whether to accept its recommendations will probably come before the end of next month.

Should Linford be allowed to proceed with a bid, then it might well object to the proposed sale, though its scope for effective resistance might be limited.

US stake in Minet leads to review

By Andrew Cornelius

The ruling council of the Lloyd's insurance market is planning to investigate the question of ownership of Lloyd's brokers by insurance companies at a meeting to be held next month.

It follows the disclosure that a US insurance group has acquired a near 25 per cent stake in Minet Holdings, the British insurance broking firm.

Sir Peter Green, the chairman of Lloyd's, wrote to Mr Ray Penn, chairman of Minet, earlier this week to give a warning that Minet may not be allowed to place business within the Lloyd's market if St Paul Companies, the US group, increases its stake in Minet beyond 25 per cent.

Minet had sought advice on the matter from Lloyd's after St Paul announced that it had increased its holding in Minet from 19.97 per cent to 24.96 per cent.

Sir Peter said in his letter that the question of ownership of Lloyd's brokers has been reviewed on several occasions. He said that the position had not changed since he advised Mr John Wallock, the former chairman of Minet,

Fierce haggling over export credits likely

By Our Banking Correspondent

European governments are to press for a semi-automatic system to help set minimum interest rates on finance for big export contracts. The move will be made at this week's meeting in Paris of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Negotiations start today on changes to the export credit consensus - the gentlemen's agreement between the big industrial countries concerning the level of subsidized interest rates on export credits.

At present, rates range from 10 per cent on export credits for poor, importing countries to 12.4 per cent for rich countries. However, since these rates were set, world interest rates have fallen about 2 per cent, cutting the element of official subsidy.

Fierce haggling is expected among OECD countries on how much consensus rates should be altered to reflect the fall. However, five European countries, including Britain, have become disgruntled with the annual battle over the consensus and are likely to oppose any change - unless a semi-automatic system is agreed.

The British Treasury, which spent a record £587m in 1981-2 subsidizing export credits through the Export Credits Guarantee Department would also like subsidies eliminated eventually. However, Britain is likely to push this week for a compromise reduction of 1 per cent for poor and intermediate countries and ½ per cent for rich countries.

Move to simplify accounts



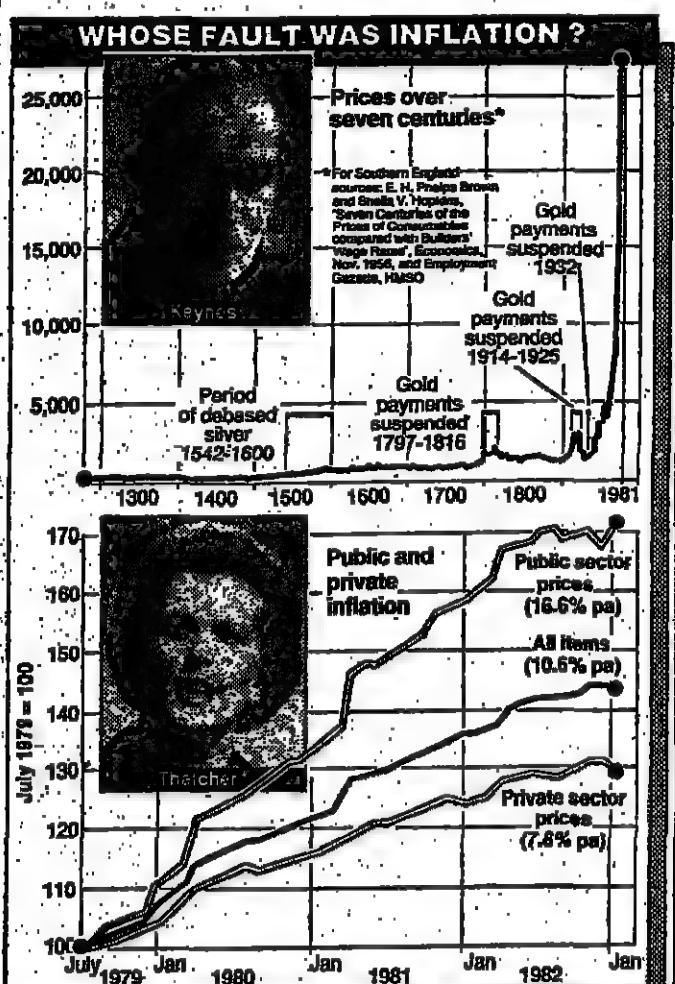
Joel Barnett difficult to read.

The Association of Certified Accountants is launching a high-level research project on central government accounting to consider if the mass of financial information can be presented in a form that more people, including MPs, might understand.

Mr Joel Barnett, former chief secretary to the Treasury and head of the research project steering group, said that "financial information presented by central government now is so obscure that it is difficult to know what is happening".

At the moment, central government spending plans are detailed through the supply estimates and the result reported in the various appropriation accounts.

Mr Barnett, who is now chairman of the Commons Public Accounts Committee, said: "The documents are bulky and very difficult to read, so that parliamentary control of the way public expenditure is planned and monitored is inhibited. As a result, public debate about government expenditure is not as well informed as it ought to be and parliamentary control is weakened".



Price of Keynes

By Graham Seargeant

You can prove all sort of things with statistics, and they are even more convincing as charts. Hence, Mr Peter Smith, a Southampton University lecturer, reproducing a long-run price chart in the latest *Journal of Economic Affairs* (top) shows "more startlingly than could words, the inflationary effects of Keynes' economic thought".Over seven centuries, prices in Southern England apparently rose by 29,309 per cent. No less than 95.9 per cent of the entire inflation has taken place since 1936, the year in which John Maynard Keynes published the *General Theory*.

That is interesting to know. But such charts always exaggerate the importance of later periods. If the chart had been drawn to end in the 1820s or

1920s, we might have concluded that respectively, Napoleon or Mr Primrose, the assassin of Sarajev, were responsible for most of history's inflation. Alternatively, Mrs Thatcher could be to blame. In an adjoining article, Mr Ronald Halstead, managing director of the Beecham group, attacks Mrs Thatcher for failing to control prices.

He praises the Government for bringing "a breath of competitive fresh air to the whole private sector". As a result, private sector inflation has fallen much lower than the retail price index might indicate. "As an employer of the public sector, however, the Government has been a failure". "Physician heal thyself" Mr Halstead concludes.

Slough confident of further profits rise

By Our Financial Staff

Mr Nigel Mobbs, chairman of Slough Estates, says he is property portfolio edged up "confident that we will be £19m to £49m, but this reporting a further advance in includes new additions offset by a deficit of £12m on revaluations".

This reflects "a generally, but hopefully temporary, weaker demand for industrial and commercial premises, reduced rental growth and an upward movement in investment yields," Mr Mobbs says. It leaves the company's asset value unchanged at 175p per share.

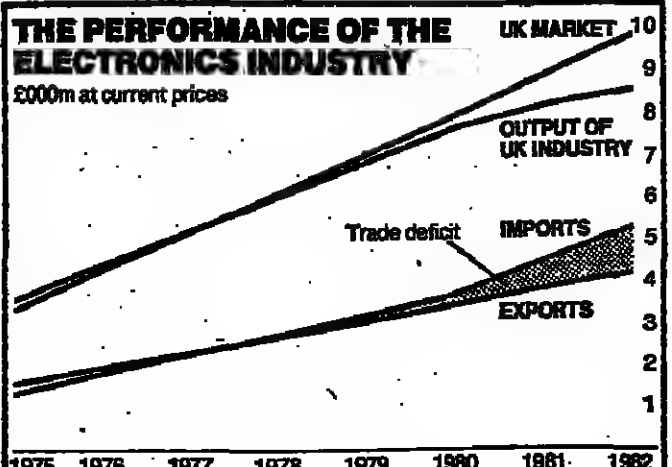
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Government's stated policy on procurement is therefore urgent and vital". The total output of Britain's electronic industry by 1980 was about £7,700m and the industry employed about 500,000 people.

Chilver maintained was still the key to revitalizing the British electronics, which last year he concluded was in relative decline. He said: "A continuation of current trends would imply a further decline in the United Kingdom share of the world market and an equivalent loss of trade, profit and job opportunities".

In another report from the NEDC published two weeks ago, Sir Iwan Maddock accused defence chiefs of wasting technological innovation and not passing the benefits on to the civil market and also called for a procurement policy. The report, *Civil Exploitation of Defence Technology* concluded: "There may be some who are content to see the UK become a technological colony of large offshore companies who will determine what products are made and where and when and how high or low the national standard of living should be."

City Comment

Unwanted financial bloodletting

It was inevitable at some stage that attempts by the banks to sort out international debt problems with the minimum fuss would make them look a soft touch and lead to charges that responsible western countries are simply bailing out irresponsible developing nations that are their own worst enemies.

Would a little bit of financial blood in the streets not concentrate the minds of governments and financiers alike?

Six American economists with access to the right ears in Washington have now come out into the open on this. In an article in today's *Journal of Economic Affairs*, they argue that such bail-outs merely benefit "both creditors and debtors at the expense of the ordinary citizen".

They say there is no justification for lending more to countries such as Poland and Mexico "without a clear understanding that a debtor nation's policy, if pernicious, will be substantially changed." Otherwise, the banks should bit the bullet.

This is a silly idea. To start with, it is wholly ideological.

More important, proponents of private enterprise, who effectively prevented international agreement on recycling and left it to the banks, cannot now complain if the banks work according to what they see as their interests.

After all is said and done

When the affairs of business are over and the last resolution has been made, then is the time to reflect upon a time well spent at the Inn on the Park. It goes without saying that the Inn on the Park is one of London's more elegant meeting places. As a business arena, however, this internationally celebrated hotel at the corner of Hyde Park boasts facilities second to none.

The superbly appointed suites lend themselves to any function, whatever the matter in hand, whatever the numbers involved.

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Whilst on the subject of magnificence, there's the superb cuisine. And the impeccable service. Our business clientele can expect only the very highest standards - what else from a hotel whose restaurants are acknowledged to be the finest in London?

It must be said that a business meeting at the Inn on the Park will never be a run of the mill affair. And if it must be said, say it at the Inn on the Park.

To find out more, simply call our Banqueting Manager, David Petrie on 01-499 0688.

Inn on the Park
Hamilton Place, Park Lane,
London W1A 1AZ

OTTOMAN BANK

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, in accordance with Article 29 of the Statutes, the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of Shareholders will be held on FRIDAY, the 27th MAY 1983, in THE QUEEN'S ROOM, THE BALTIMORE EXCHANGE, 14-20 ST. MARY AXE, EC3A 8BU, at 11 a.m. to receive a Report from the Committee with the Accounts for the year ended 31st December 1982; to propose a Dividend; and to elect Members of the Committee.

By Article 27 of the Statutes the General Meeting is composed of holders, whether in person or by proxy or both together, of at least thirty shares, who, to be entitled to take part in the Meeting, must deposit their shares and, as may be necessary, their proxies at the Head Office of the Company in Istanbul or at any of the branches, or in London at Dunster House, 3rd Floor, Mincing Lane, EC3R 7DN or in Paris at 7 rue Meyerbeer, 75009, at least ten days before the date fixed for the Meeting.

The Report of the Committee and the Accounts which will be presented to the General Meeting are available to the Shareholders at the Head Office in Istanbul and at the offices in London and Paris.

T. R. STEPHENS
Secretary to the Committee

25th April 1983

USM REVIEW

American notebook

La crème de la crème

Support Secretary

c£7,000 London W1
A mature, efficient, experienced support secretary is sought by an international high quality clothing company. Secretarial skills, shorthand, 110 wpm, typist 60 wpm. Computer skills, excellent. Preferred age 20-30. Salary negotiable plus good company benefits and long term prospects. Send full CV urgently enclosing daytime telephone number to: Mrs Alex Tawney, PER, 4-6 Grosvenor Place, London SW1X 7BS.

Executive Selection

PA/SECRETARY

£8,500-27
An international merchant bank requires a high calibre PA to work closely with the young Head of the Mergers & Acquisitions Department. Very much a PA position with a junior secretary to assist. Applicants must enjoy a fast moving sophisticated environment & be capable of working under considerable pressure when required 100/60. Excellent benefits.

EUROBONDS

12.00 am-7.00 pm
Enjoy the fast moving environment of Eurobond Trading as the Secretary to the Departmental Director. The hours of work coincide with the American markets. The organisation is a leading merchant bank. Age 21-25. £17,000 + mortgage. Speeds 100/60.

MacBlain

Recruitment Consultants
10 Harrow Square, London W1

VICTORIA

Fascinating content to unusual Sec/P.A. job with management consultancy. Must have impeccable skills, team spirit, lateral thinking and the utmost discretion (languages useful). Age 30ish, £8,000+.

ALSO

career opportunity for young secretaries in City. £7,000 + perks. Please call Mrs Byardine Norma Skyp (Personnel Services Ltd) 222 5091

AUDIO SECRETARY

WC2
£7,000 - age 25 to 45
Our client, a well-established firm of Surveyors, are looking for a secretary to work for 2 of their Partners. You will be dealing with correspondence, short reports and confidential work concerning their projects in the UK and abroad, as well as organising holidays for Partners, friends.

Crone Corkill

Recruitment Consultants

RESEARCH DIRECTOR

An extremely interesting and involving position for a senior PA/Secretary with experience in the medical pharmaceutical or chemical fields. A positive personality to deal effectively with executives of other companies. Age 20-45. W1 Area. Salary £20,000-£25,000.

TRAVEL, W1, TO £7,000

Sec and 20 (100-120) wpm, good shorthand, good typing, good presentation, good CV, good references, good salary, good benefits, good working conditions, good location, good time, good money, good everything.

P.R. W1 £8,000

Secretary 20 (100-120) wpm, good shorthand, good typing, good presentation, good CV, good references, good salary, good benefits, good working conditions, good location, good time, good money, good everything.

PA WITH FLUENT FRENCH

£10,000 +
Your ability to completely run the office in the M.D.'s absence, your fluent French, good shorthand, good typing, good presentation, good CV, good references, good salary, good benefits, good working conditions, good location, good time, good money, good everything.

Bernadette of Bond St

Recruitment Consultants
No 55, (next door to Fenwick)
01-625 1204

URGENT

We will pay £8,250 per annum plus paid overtime to work in our luxurious offices in W.1 in return for your secretarial and administrative skills. Experience and sense of humour essential. Please reply to Box No 05144 The Times by Friday, 29th April.

P.A. IN PARK LANE

£8,250 + PERKS
Ideally the right candidate should have excellent secretarial skills and capacity for working for the president of this international company. Your knowledge of French would be useful, but not essential. Call

Susan Beck

TELEPHONE 01-625 1204

ADMIN SEC

£8,250
International Co. near Green Park. Requires Secretary to work on own initiative. Role as above.

Belle Emp. Ag.

404 4655

Legal Secretary, W1

Small Solicitors' office seeks experienced legal secretary/receptionist. Salary £7,000 pa. 01-631 0695

BROKING PA

PACKAGE TO £8,500
We have a superb opportunity for a capable young PA to work closely with the young Head of the Mergers & Acquisitions Department. Very much a PA position with a junior secretary to assist. Applicants must enjoy a fast moving sophisticated environment & be capable of working under considerable pressure when required 100/60. Excellent benefits.

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Belle Emp. Ag.

404 4655

Legal Secretary, W1

Small Solicitors' office seeks experienced legal secretary/receptionist. Salary £7,000 pa. 01-631 0695

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Frenetic Travel Agency requires super Secretary with high work-rate. Occasional Saturdays. General duties include word processing (CPT 8000, can be taught), Telex, and some PA work for M.D. Salary package of £9,000 p.a. plus lunches, use of pool car, travel benefits, overtime, etc.

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45 Earls Court Road, London W6 6EJ
Tel 01-937 8544.

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AGE 25-35

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We are looking for a presentable and experienced person able to work on a full-time basis in a dynamic and progressive public relations company. Ideal opportunity for a budding executive. Salary a.s.e.

PRIVATE SECRETARY TO CHAIRMAN

Private Secretary to Chairman, aged 25-35 with sound educational skills and experience. Small plant. Victoria commercial office offering involvement and variety. Please apply to Joanne Turner 01-434-8274

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184th Career, 1865-1874 yrs. 185th Career, 1875-1884 yrs. 186th Career, 1885-1894 yrs. 187th Career, 1895-1904 yrs. 188th Career, 1905-1914 yrs. 189th Career, 1915-1924 yrs. 190th Career, 1925-1934 yrs. 191st Career, 1935-1944 yrs. 192nd Career, 1945-1954 yrs. 193rd Career, 1955-1964 yrs. 194th Career, 1965-1974 yrs. 195th Career, 1975-1984 yrs. 196th Career, 1985-1994 yrs. 197th Career, 1995-2004 yrs. 198th Career, 2005-2014 yrs. 199th Career, 2015-2024 yrs. 200th Career, 2025-2034 yrs. 201st Career, 2035-2044 yrs. 202nd Career, 2045-2054 yrs. 203rd Career, 2055-2064 yrs. 204th Career, 2065-2074 yrs. 205th Career, 2075-2084 yrs. 206th Career, 2085-2094 yrs. 207th Career, 2095-2104 yrs. 208th Career, 2105-2114 yrs. 209th Career, 2115-2124 yrs. 210th Career, 2125-2134 yrs. 211st Career, 2135-2144 yrs. 212nd Career, 2145-2154 yrs. 213rd Career, 2155-2164 yrs. 214th Career, 2165-2174 yrs. 215th Career, 2175-2184 yrs. 216th Career, 2185-2194 yrs. 217th Career, 2195-2204 yrs. 218th Career, 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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

BBC 1

8.00 **Cornwall AM**. News, sport, weather and traffic reports. Also available to viewers with sets that do not have the teletext facility.

8.30 **Breakfast Time** presented by Frank Bough and Selma Scott. News at 8.30, 7.30, 6.30 and 5.30 with headlines on the quarter hours; regional news, weather and traffic at 6.45, 7.15, 7.45, 8.15; keep fit between 8.45 and 7.00; tonight's television previewed between 7.15 and 7.30; a review of the morning papers at 7.30 and 8.30; holiday advice between 7.30 and 7.45; horoscopes between 8.30 and 8.45; country hits between 8.45 and 9.00. Closes down at 9.00.

9.30 **For Schools, Colleges: Life and Social Studies** 10.00 **Yon and the First School** (10.35 Music Time ends at 10.35) 11.00 **Winter** 11.20 **Clothesdown**.

2.30 **News After Noon** with Richard Wynn and Judith Stamp. News at 2.30 and 3.30; regional news (London and SE only); Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles; 1.00 **Public Eye** at One, Today's guest is Mrs. Mary Evans, who talks about her new life as a medium and healer. 1.45 **Chigley**, A See-Saw programme for the very young.

2.01 **For Schools, Colleges: Words and Pictures**, 2.15 **Reflections**. Ireland. An Irishman's view of his own country (2.35 **Plants in Action**) (3.00 **Bonanza**). The Curlew family are on the trail of swallows (3.35 **Regional News** (not London or Scotland)).

3.55 **Play School**. Shown earlier on BBC 2 4.20 **Space Sentinels**. Animated science fiction adventures (4.40 **The Last of the Mohicans**). The German shepherd dog in Second Chance. 5.00 **John Craven's Newsround**. The latest world news for young people. 5.10 **Blue Peter** with Simon Groom, board the steam train, The President.

5.40 **News at Six** 6.00 **South East Star** 6.25 **Nationwide** presented by Sue Lawley and Richard Kershaw. The programme includes Hugh Scully's weekly item Watchdog which investigates accusations of bureaucratic fraud.

6.50 **Roll Harris Cartoon Time** on the theme of school. Featuring Tom and Jerry, Scrawny Squirt and some Droopies. 7.20 **Matt Houston**. The millionaire private detective is called in to help a woman who believes her boxer husband is the intended victim of a murder in a Japanese restaurant. Houston's investigations lead him into the murky world of fight fixing.

8.10 **Penetration: America's Secret** (1974). A documentary report from Nicaragua with an assessment of the extent of the CIA's involvement in the country's civil war.

9.00 **News** with John Humphrys. 9.25 **Film: Persepolis** (1974) starring Lina Turner, Ralph Bates and Trevor Howard. A psychological thriller about a rich American widow, living in England, who is accused of murdering her husband.

10.00 **News** with John Humphrys. 10.25 **Film: Persepolis** (1974) starring Lina Turner, Ralph Bates and Trevor Howard. A psychological thriller about a rich American widow, living in England, who is accused of murdering her husband.

11.00 **News** with John Humphrys. 11.25 **Wall to Wall** examines the range of contraception methods available.

11.55 **Weather**.

tv-am

8.00 **Daybreak** with Lucy Mather followed at 8.30 with **Good Morning Britain** presented by Lynda Barry and Nick Owen. News at 8.00, 7.00, 6.30, 5.30 and 4.30; city news at 5.15; morning papers reviewed at 6.30 and 8.30; television previewed at 7.30; Klemens television; Jessica in Soap at 8.25; good food guide at 8.35. Closes down at 8.45.

ITV/LONDON

8.30 **For Schools: Mountain Climbing** 9.47 **New Technology** 10.04 **The Atomic Bombing of Japan** 10.31 **A young girl's relationship at home and school** 10.58 **Friendship** 11.00 **Courtesy and Love** 11.22 **Growing up with a handicap** 11.38 **Parenthood**.

12.00 **Alphabet Zoo**. Nerys Hughes and Ralph McTell with O for Other 12.18 **Let's Travel** to the story of Tom Thumb and the Race; 12.30 **A Better Read**. Tom Coyne talks to Mike Harding about books. 1.00 **News with Leonard Parkinson** 1.20 **Shakespeare with Robin Houston** 1.30 **Talking Personally**. Andrew Gardner talks to Home Office pathologist, Professor Keith Simpson.

2.00 **John Gielgud in 'Harem'** (1959) starring Alec Guinness and Burt Reynolds. The story of a young man who becomes a salesman based in Harem, who allows himself to be recruited by the British secret service in exchange for money to launch his own business. Directed by Carol Reed.

4.00 **Alphabet Zoo**. A repeat of the programme show at noon. 4.15 **Disaster** in episode one of **Four Heads** are better than two; 4.30 **Spiderwoman**. Animated adventures of the webbed crusader; 4.45 **Play: The School of Athens** by Pauline Milne. Lively Anne visits Elizabeth and during the night Amelia appears mysteriously. Starring Angela Lanyon and Lucy Baker; 5.15 **Different Stripes**.

5.45 **News** 6.00 **Theatre** 6.25 **News** 6.45 **News** 6.55 **News** 7.00 **News** 7.15 **News** 7.30 **News** 7.45 **News** 8.00 **News** 8.15 **News** 8.30 **News** 8.45 **News** 9.00 **News** 9.15 **News** 9.30 **News** 9.45 **News** 10.00 **News** 10.15 **News** 10.30 **News** 10.45 **News** 11.00 **News** 11.15 **News** 11.30 **News** 11.45 **News** 12.00 **News** 12.15 **News** 12.30 **News** 12.45 **News** 1.00 **News** 1.15 **News** 1.30 **News** 1.45 **News** 2.00 **News** 2.15 **News** 2.30 **News** 2.45 **News** 3.00 **News** 3.15 **News** 3.30 **News** 3.45 **News** 4.00 **News** 4.15 **News** 4.30 **News** 4.45 **News** 5.00 **News** 5.15 **News** 5.30 **News** 5.45 **News** 6.00 **News** 6.15 **News** 6.30 **News** 6.45 **News** 7.00 **News** 7.15 **News** 7.30 **News** 7.45 **News** 8.00 **News** 8.15 **News** 8.30 **News** 8.45 **News** 9.00 **News** 9.15 **News** 9.30 **News** 9.45 **News** 10.00 **News** 10.15 **News** 10.30 **News** 10.45 **News** 11.00 **News** 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